

GRESS OF THE HOUSING CAMPAIGN. REQUEST FOR BEAUTY IN PHOTOGRAPHY (Illustrated). By F. C. Tilney

# COUNTRY LIFE

AVISTOCK STREET, STRAND, LONDON, W.C. 2.

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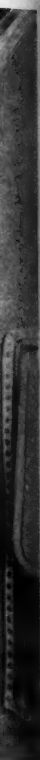
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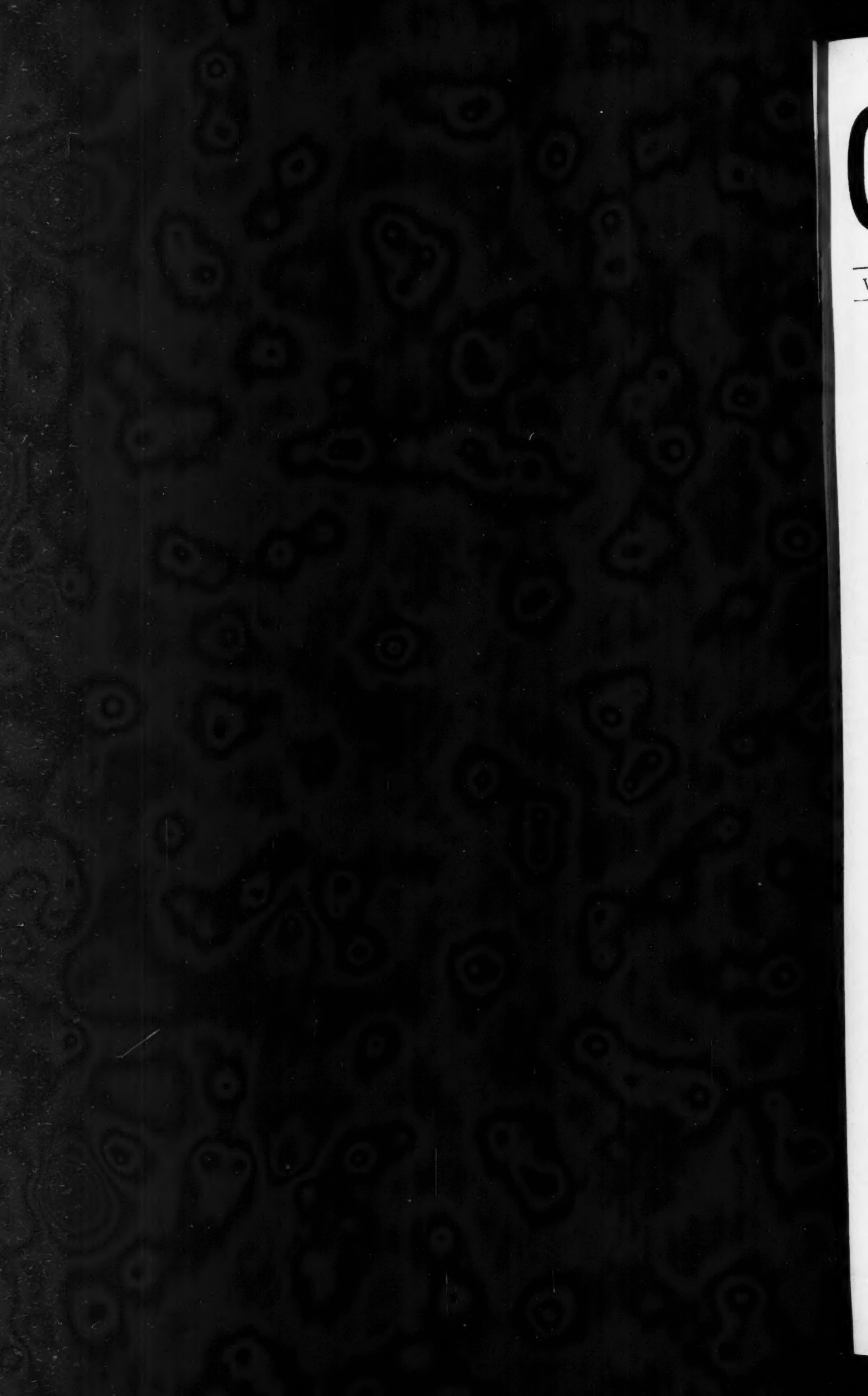
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## PROGRESS IN COTTAGE BUILDING

ON another page the salient facts in regard to the present position of the carrying out of the housing programme are set forth. It will be noticed that no attempt has been made there to discuss the matter from an economical point of view. What we have to consider is that after the war the country was left with a serious shortage of houses, which had to be made good before progress could be successfully attempted in other directions. So the outlay on housing must be regarded in the country in an exactly similar light as the outlay on munitions. In the case of the latter the effect produced was in the present. There is nothing visible to show for the outlay now. But even if a house costs more to put up than it could be sold for, which many people will accept as an adequate test of value, still a property has been created which will serve the use, let us hope, of many generations to come. Were it not for this, the project could not be justified. The system of building according to directions issued from a central authority is, from many points of view, inconvenient. The ideal way is always to leave individual initiative to

meet a demand. But that was out of the question. The war had made materials and workers equally scarce and, it may be added, equally expensive. The alternative to the plan adopted was that of waiting till things recovered their natural equilibrium. But that would have meant enormous delay, and while we were waiting for circumstances to improve, there would have been many a family shivering in the cold, owing to the shortage of houses. Dr. Addison's problem was to make that shortage good as quickly as possible. A great deal of impatient criticism has been showered upon him and his department because of the slowness of progress. That could scarcely have come from anyone who had built a house and knew the irritating and apparently interminable delays to which the most impatient must submit. Land cannot be purchased in a day, as cattle or horses. Title deeds have to be investigated, which means employment of legal help, and the legal fraternity are not addicted to the fault of hurrying too much. Then, it is only fair that those who provide the money should have a check upon the expenditure. In this case it is the taxpayer from whose pocket the funds must eventually be extracted. He cannot personally supervise the preliminary bargaining and the subsequent construction, but must appear by proxy, as it were, the proxy being the various functionaries employed by the Ministry of Health. If building is to serve any purpose, it is obvious that pains must be taken to find out what the future occupants will want and what will be best for them. Moreover, a law cannot be laid down that will apply uniformly over the whole country.

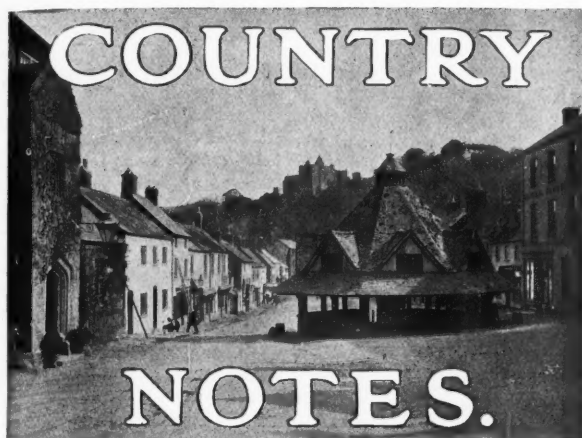
Hence commissioners and architects had to be found who would ascertain the opinions of the people and the character of the houses in the various districts into which the country for this purpose has been divided. Here, again, is a long and difficult business, because the village woman or the artisan's wife does not always know herself what is best for her. Questions that do not bulk very largely in the public eye are, nevertheless, very keenly debated by those whose interests are most concerned. There is a division of opinion, for example, as to whether a public laundry or a private washhouse is most suited for a working man's family. Upon this point there have been great controversies long before the war, and they have not lost their point since. There are, again, the conveniences of the house to be settled. At a time when building is so expensive it is not possible to provide the labouring man with the small villa that once we contemplated. What we really want for each is a house that will be, in the first place, sanitary; in the next, convenient for working; and, in the third place, as small as possible. With the fulfilment of these conditions no real fault can be found. The type of cottage that seems to be most widely adapted is simple and not inadequate. It has on the ground floor a scullery and a living-room; over this a minimum of three bedrooms, two of which at least have a fireplace.

But when all allowance has been made, it must be noticed that the great business firms which have formed utility societies for the purpose have been the first to get to work. They are really building houses while the majority of the local authorities are still engaged in discussing details. It is only fair to assume that the business men have got to work because they are applying business principles to the problem. They really need cottages for their workmen, but other workers are just as much in need of dwellings as they, and hence the country is rendered impatient by the fact that, while labouring people have either to be crowded together into hovels or shiver outside, they do not see any actual building in progress. There is more delay than is absolutely necessary in providing housing accommodation for them. Dr. Addison's plan, we think, is excellent, but it will only produce excellent results if the various authorities throughout the country who are responsible for housing give their hearty and full co-operation.

## Our Frontispiece

WE print as our frontispiece a recent portrait of Field-Marshal Sir Edmund Allenby and Lady Allenby. Sir Edmund was commanded to Balmoral Castle on Wednesday, when the King invested him with the insignia of the G.C.B. and handed him his Field Marshal's baton.

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SIR AUCKLAND GEDDES, in his speech to the leading commercial motor manufacturers on Monday, failed to get into sympathy with the position of his interviewers. He made one of those speeches which, on the surface, appear perfectly logical and convincing, but still do not touch the heart of the subject. It was a mere feat of ingenuity to prove that British manufacturers are enjoying advantages equivalent to 88 per cent. as against foreign manufacturers. This does not really touch the situation, which is that before the war Great Britain had come right to the front in this industry. During the struggle the activity of those engaged in it was deflected to other purposes, and at the present moment they have not yet recovered their old position and are subject to an unfair competition. As long as Americans can undersell British manufacturers in their own market it is idle to make out that the latter have the best of the handicap. What is required is the imposition of a duty that will at least equalise the position between the home-made and the foreign-made article for the one or two years necessary for our people to get into full swing. The argument of Sir Auckland Geddes, if carried to its logical conclusion, is that it is better to sacrifice a point in order to have a quick response to the demands of purchasers than to lay the foundation of what well may become one of the most important British industries in the future. He is wise for to-day but not for to-morrow. The manufacturers, as is most natural, are thoroughly dissatisfied with his reply, and we most earnestly hope and trust that they will not leave the matter where it stands, but again set forth their grievances and continue doing so until they receive a more satisfactory reply.

IT is certain that public opinion does not desire the liquor traffic to revert to its pre-war condition. It is equally certain that it will rebel against the continuation of the present restrictions. That being granted, much can be said for the Bill which has been drawn up with the concurrence of the trade. One of the most important sections is that which limits the sale of drink to twelve hours daily. To many this will appear to be a very liberal allowance. It would, indeed, be a change from the present arrangement. But before the war licensed premises were allowed to be open much longer on weekdays. In London publicans had nineteen and a half hours in which to sell their goods, in towns outside the metropolis seventeen hours, and in country places sixteen. The change to twelve is, therefore, more drastic than would appear at first sight. In the next place, a sort of local option is to be allowed as to the distribution of these hours. One lesson of the war certainly is that the sale of intoxicating liquors should be restricted in the forenoon, that is, during the loafer's favourite time. Circumstances must, however, govern the arrangement of the hours. What would suit a town like Glasgow or Liverpool or Nottingham might not be so well adapted to the circumstances of Edinburgh, Manchester or Leicester. It is a very good provision that enables the local authorities to decide when the door of the public house must be barred and when left open. Of course, the Bill covers a great deal of ground, but, unless we are mistaken, this is the clause which is most likely to receive attention.

THE splendid send-off given Lord Grey of Falloden when he left Great Britain for America shows that in the public estimation no one is better qualified at the present moment to draw together the bonds of friendship between

this country and the United States of America. Although Lord Grey has very little personal knowledge of Mr. Wilson, the President of the United States, he has welcomed with the greatest cordiality the evolution of the idea of a League of Nations, and was among the first to fall in with the famous fourteen points. Ever he has been on the side of peace. During the anxious years before the war no one saw more clearly than he did the approaching menace. Yet he never wavered in his search for an understanding. He fought for it till the noise of the German guns echoed over the French border. His last effort in the negotiations was an almost despairing attempt to get Austria and Germany into a conference, where he believed the interests of the common weal would outweigh the motives then urging the Central Empires to make war. So in America we all know that he will remain the disinterested advocate of peace, and that nothing will be left undone by him to bring more closely together Great Britain and her great cousin at the other side of the Atlantic.

IN Professor Armstrong's letter to the *Times* about Lord Fisher there is at least one point which should not go unheeded. Lord Fisher is urging in season and out of season the greater use of oil, but the professor holds that in this he is speaking more or less at random. The supply of oil is likely to become sooner exhausted than that of coal. The oil fields of the world, he says, cannot be long-lived at the present rate of extravagant use. To feed not only the Navy but the mercantile marine with oil will be impossible. This is a very serious consideration. Had there been any prospect of oil being found in real abundance, there would have been a way opened out of many of our difficulties; but if it be true, as Professor Armstrong says it is, that, according to the official confession, the American oil fields are all but exhausted and our own are scarcely worth taking into consideration, then the difficulties connected with fuel are likely to be formidable in the future; and how far off that future is no one seems able to say definitely.

#### MIGRATION.

In the streets leaves are falling, brown and wither'd,  
While the cold winds blow,  
And at night, in dark skies, the birds are passing  
Calling as they go;  
Swift of wing, hearts go with them on their passage  
'Neath the traveller's star,  
Where beyond sea, and sand, and vanish'd cities  
Sun-fleck'd waters are.

In those lands, woe forgetting and forgotten,  
Hope grows young again,  
Bright of hue, like the bow of coloured arches  
Shining through the rain,  
And the freed Soul seeks Love there, gay, resplendent  
As an aerial thing,  
While the birds, those dear comrades of our journey,  
Ever love and sing.

MABEL LEIGH.

MR. EDMUND GOSSE has had a literary career which renders him well worthy of the great compliment paid him on his seventieth birthday. It took the form of an address and a bust of himself by Sir William Goscombe John, R.A. Probably he will prize the address more than anything else. Lord Crewe expresses the opinions of the other signatories in a very happily phrased letter. It contained a reference to the "dim and dusty passages" of the Board of Trade which became for nearly thirty years "the haunt of singing birds"; then to the House of Lords, where Mr. Gosse was Librarian; then to the grey courts at Cambridge, and finally to the British Museum. "Alone among British writers you have with equal certainty penetrated the inner mind of the Latin race and have apprehended the progress of poetry and the drama in the Scandinavian countries." A distinguished list of signatories gives emphasis to this fine letter.

MUCH surprise has been expressed that Signor d'Annunzio should have proved himself one of the most vigorous and energetic individualities during the war. Before it occurred he was known outside Italy chiefly as a writer of what are called decadent novels. They dealt very frankly with corruption in various forms, and that in no condemnatory spirit. Now, there is always a section of unimaginative people who confuse what an author writes with what he is, and because d'Annunzio made sexual relations (more or less



illicit) the subject of his art, it was concluded that he was personally a decadent. They did not recognise that the great artist does not necessarily reveal himself in his work. From an inexhaustible range of things to write about he chooses those which he thinks most fitted to his purpose. His power does not rise from self-revelation, except, indeed, that phrase be interpreted very widely, but from his dramatic power of seizing and rendering a character that may be foreign to him. Thus, it is really no case for surprise that this writer should have gained the high praise bestowed upon him by the President of the National Council of Fiume, by whom he was described as "the great soldier-poet, the hero of heroes, who a hundred times has risked his life for Italy."

IT is very seldom that a University appointment gives rise to so much interest and pleasure in circles other than those that would be naturally affected as has the nomination of Mr. Balfour as Chancellor of the University of Cambridge. It is generally felt that there could be no more appropriate office for one who during a long and busy life spent in the high offices of state has yet always remained pre-eminently a man of learning. Apart from his own devotion to his old University, Mr. Balfour has many ties binding him to Cambridge: in his sister, Mrs. Sidgwick, whose name is indissolubly connected with Newnham; in the memory of the late Chancellor, his brother-in-law, Lord Rayleigh; in that of his younger brother, killed on the Alps in the earliest years of his fame as a man of science, who is still always spoken of by his Cambridge contemporaries with unique regret and affection as "Frank Balfour." Mr. Balfour is the most distinguished of living Cambridge men. He will, we may be sure, regard the appointment as a great honour, and Cambridge very well knows that in electing him she is honouring herself.

IN the many references which have recently been made to the need for a poultry policy, it has not been realised that the small-holders now coming rapidly into existence are the people from whom eggs and chickens may be expected. In France there is, comparatively speaking, very little poultry rearing on a gigantic scale, but the peasant proprietor, who has increased in numbers enormously since the war, has always contributed a very large share of the poultry and eggs which have been exported. A small-holder, without going into poultry farming as a main source of income, can easily add to his profit something from a small head of poultry. If he is a market gardener he may make still more out of the birds. The idea is that he should divide his little farm, suppose it to consist of nine acres, for example, into three portions. On one of them he could have his chicken houses and other apparatus, and in the course of a year a fair number of birds would not only manure that plot thoroughly, but provide very rich manure for the rest of the land. In the second year he should move his coops into another division and cultivate that land which they have left. He will find it extremely rich and fertile. By the time he has got over the third of his plots the original one will be perfectly clean and fit for the birds once more. In that way it would be possible for him to make a fair profit out of his eggs and chickens in addition to the living wage afforded him by market gardening.

THE increased use of machinery by farmers threatens to produce an unforeseen effect. Considerable dissatisfaction is felt because, though the labourer is paid more highly than ever he was before and works shorter hours, he refuses to do overtime even when a glimpse of sunshine has followed wet weather. He is paid, be it remembered, for every day, whether he works or not. If the conditions should enforce idleness, his wages still go on. Now, the farmer argues that under the old conditions extra work in summer compensated for the less work done in winter, and he is openly discussing what he can do to equalise things. As the tractor plough comes more into general use so does the farmer aim at getting his ploughing and sowing done in October. Should he succeed in that, there will be little to do in the winter months and he can dispense with a number of the hands that he has kept going during the rest of the year. This is a course that might produce more unemployment than is desirable. It would be well, therefore, if means were found to encourage the farmer to put men on to such work as hedging, fencing, draining and ditching during the short winter days. But it would be necessary for the Wages Board to offer an inducement, and this could be done by the encouragement of piece-work, to which the labourer has been accustomed in tasks such as these.

AS we were told would be the case, the agricultural returns for England and Wales, 1919, show a relapse after the activity of the war. The decrease in the tables speak for themselves. The wheat area has diminished by 335,500 acres, or a little over 13 per cent.; oats by 217,090 acres. The slight increases in barley of 0.6 per cent., rye 1.1 per cent., beans 13.6 per cent., peas 8.9 per cent., are far from compensating for the falling off in the two most important cereal crops. Potato growing has also received a check, the decrease being 157,780 acres, or 24.9 per cent. It is not quite understandable why there should be a decrease of 237,540 acres in the area of cultivated land entered as the acreage under all crops and grass. The figures seem to point to the beginning of a retrograde movement which ought to be dealt with. Even orchards show a decrease of 30,680 acres, or 11.7 per cent. The livestock returns correspond with those of the crops. There is a decrease of 8,250 horses used for agricultural purposes, including mares for breeding, which is more than compensated for by an increase in the number of unbroken and other horses amounting to 10,980. The most disquieting livestock figures are those connected with dairy cattle. There is an increase of 85,460 or 4.6 per cent. of cows and heifers in milk, but against that is to be set the decrease in the number of cows in calf but not in milk and of the number of heifers in calf, 12.8 per cent. in the case of the one and 17.5 per cent. in the case of the other. There is a good increase in the number of other cattle two years old and upwards, but a falling away in the number of young stock under two years. On the whole number there is a loss. The total of sheep has diminished by 1,351,960, which is serious. In pigs, sows kept for breeding have decreased by 13 per cent. and other pigs increased by 10 per cent. Those who recognise the importance of increasing food production will find in these figures a call for greater exertion in the coming year.

#### LOVE-IN-A-MIST.

Blue as where blend of sky and sea defines  
The still horizon, green of feathered moss  
That in some charmed grove a cradle lines—  
So fragile that the sporting breezes toss  
The tiny elf—of these fair tints were made  
Love-in-a-mist, when love to earth first strayed.

Thy flower, sweet! In Paradise afar  
Dost thou its peer behold, remembering? . . .  
The pages of thy diary cannot mar  
Its grace (once in our garden blossoming),  
Love-in-a-mist—pressed now six weary years—  
Yet still I see it through a mist of tears.

EDITH E. MILLARD.

LORD LEE has struck the right note in his letter to the Agricultural Executive Committees of England and Wales when he urges all committees to use their powers to the full in cases where land is being badly or negligently farmed. He prefixes this by observing that he will not be expected to make any declaration of an agricultural policy until he has had time to look at the subject in its various bearings and obtained the assent of Parliament to such measures as may be found necessary. But he will probably search in vain for a better foundation-stone to his policy. There is no permanent law at present which empowers any committee of a County Council to demand good husbandry from farmers. The power by which they do so is temporary, and was given, in fact, to meet the exigencies of the war. The policy to be drawn up must have for its main object the establishment of agriculture on a basis of permanent prosperity. To ensure that the responsible Minister must draw the line very clearly between over-interference and a slovenly *laissez-faire* rule. Probably it will be found that the better plan is to insist upon food production on a satisfactory scale. The Executive Council, composed as it is mostly of experienced farmers, might very well decide whether land was made to yield a reasonably adequate return or not. The Board of Agriculture would be well advised not to interfere with the actual husbandry. It will be sufficient if it insists on results being obtained. If it can do so, as is assuredly the case, with the co-operation of the best men engaged in the industry, success will be assured. But nothing is more resented by the farmer than the visitation of his land by what he will always describe as "a gentleman from London" whom he thinks incompetent to give advice to a farmer.

## THE HOUSING CAMPAIGN

THE word "campaign" is the most natural one to employ with regard to the steps being taken to carry out a great housing programme. Dr. Addison at the Ministry of Health when seen in his environment bears a decided resemblance to a general. He sits there with his map and his staff overlooking the progress that has been made in every corner of England. The housing map resembles a military map more than that of an ordnance survey. In it England is divided not into separate counties, but into groups of counties marked in bold letters A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, K, L, M, there being eleven divisions in all. A takes in Northumberland, Cumberland, Durham and Westmorland, B Yorkshire, C Cheshire and Lancashire, and so on. Different coloured pins are used to mark progress, in various directions. The stages are very closely indicated in the returns which are published weekly, the latest being dated September 20th. This shows the weekly progress and in a brief introduction gives many hints relative to the time of issue. We shall have something to say about these later on, but it is first necessary to understand the latest summary. The schemes are classified under three headings, those of local sanitary authorities, County Councils, and Public Utility Societies, all of them being for the provision of new houses. Up to August 31st a total of 3,879 schemes had been submitted by 995 local authorities and fifty-four public utility societies, the area of all the sites taken together being 39,500 acres, the sites for which the information is given covering 37,288 acres. Of these 1,145 sites covering 16,840 acres had been approved by the Ministry of Health. That is Stage one in the building evolution. Stage two is the lay-out of the site of 615 schemes; 281 had been approved. The third step is concerned with the actual plans of the houses. Here, of 385 applications, 201 providing for 13,065 houses had been approved. The latest weekly return shows that during the week 164 sites had been submitted by forty-seven local authorities, of which nineteen were urban and twenty-seven rural. The return states that seventy-three schemes had been approved during the week, bringing the total number of local authority schemes approved to 1,542, which cover approximately 18,400 acres, and a list is given of the authorities.

During the same period thirty-seven schemes of lay-out were submitted by twenty-five local authorities, and twenty-three schemes promoted by twenty-two local authorities were approved during the week, bringing the total number of schemes approved to 436. That marks a start in each of these places. The submission of a scheme for examination is a preliminary only. In addition, thirteen urban and nine rural schemes of lay-out had been approved. In the same week fourteen full house plan schemes and three part schemes, representing 837 houses, were submitted by thirteen local authorities, and twenty-one full schemes and three part schemes promoted by twenty local authorities were approved during the week, bringing the total number of full schemes approved to 321 and the number of houses represented to 19,634. It will thus be seen that a great many authorities up and down the country are either getting ready or are ready to build. We hope that those who have passed all the stages successfully will lose no time in realising their plans. It is an old adage of the mason that building done during the rains of winter is better than that accomplished in dry weather, as the moisture causes the walls and foundations to set more readily. If there is a weakness in the scheme it lies, in our opinion, in the limitation of private enterprise. The private builder will always enjoy certain advantages over the public builder. At the very beginning he is better able to bargain about land. Not that we think the outlay on land has been extravagant. According to the latest reports before us the average cost per acre in county boroughs was £210. In other boroughs or urban districts with a population of 20,000 and over, £189; with borough or urban districts of less than 20,000, £175; and rural districts, £126. The last may perhaps strike one as being high, as land in the real country can easily be purchased just now at between £40 and £50 an acre for agricultural purposes. It may be asked why the owner should demand more for building than for husbandry. If other goods are being sold there is not an extra charge on account of the use to which they are put; but this is just an example of the way in which traffic in land cannot be judged by other traffic. The land for a house

is very often chosen because it is the best bit of a field, the portion adjoining the main road, or possesses some other natural advantage for which something extra should be paid. But the comparatively high average of £126 an acre is mainly due to the fact that many districts are classified as rural which are really urban in character. The outskirts of Watford might be taken as an example. Watford is really a thriving town, and there is a demand in the neighbourhood for building land, and the cost therefore goes to swell the average because, technically speaking, it is a rural area. Nevertheless, local authorities will always be more or less at a disadvantage as compared with private individuals in purchasing land, only, as was shown in last week's issue, the cost of the site is really of very little importance as compared with the immensely greater cost of building. We notice in the papers that a building scheme has been sent back because the cost per cottage averaged out at £1,000. This would mean, at the very least, a charge of £50 annually, whereas even if only ten houses are built on an acre, and it is the official calculation that this is the number, a tenth part of £126 would be only a little over £12, which cannot be considered a crushing price even for a cottage site.

An endeavour is at present being made to utilise the services of the small, that is to say, the individual builder. Powers to do so are given by the new Housing Act. In Section 12 (3) "a local authority may contract with a private builder for the purchase of houses to be thereafter erected by him." It is pointed out that in many cases this may be both economical and expeditious. There can be no doubt that many small builders have partly developed sites in their possession on which a few houses could be erected, and those who engaged or used to engage in the development of large estates in all probability have building resources at their disposal with a considerable saving of expense for the erection of working class houses. For these reasons private builders who consider that they could put in hand at once the building of a few cottages at a relatively cheap rate should at once get into communication with their local authority and submit proposals for consideration. In a sense the public utility societies stand in the place of private builders. We notice that many of them have submitted pretty large schemes for approval. Cammell Laird and Co., Limited, for instance, have in the urban district of Penistone submitted an area of 243 acres, on which they propose to build ultimately 500 houses, for 100 of which plans have been brought forward. Messrs. Pilkington Brothers in the county borough of St. Helens have submitted a proposal of 690 acres, on which they propose to build ultimately 4,000 houses. Swanpool Garden Village, which we take to be Ruston and Hornsby, have submitted an area of 370 acres at Branson to provide 3,000 houses ultimately, and plans for sixty-nine have been submitted. These plans have been approved, and in this case building has actually commenced. The Margam Co-operative Homes, Limited, have submitted a proposal to build 1,200 houses on 109 acres at Margam, and there, too, work has begun. So it is at Redcar, where Dorman Long and Co. have taken the matter in hand. At Stockton-on-Tees 100 houses are in course of erection under the auspices of the Belasis Garden City, Limited, which is the Furness Shipbuilding Company. The Staveley Housing Association has commenced work at Chesterfield. So has the association called the Braintree Co-operative Homes, Limited, at Braintree.

It will thus be seen that public utility societies are showing a considerable amount of activity. But after all, we are here more concerned with genuine rural housing than town housing. One of the most interesting features is the application of town planning to the country village. Of course, it cannot be universally applied. Cottages on the roadside or adjacent to the farm would not enter into any scheme of village planning. But the project of establishing large holdings or farm factories is gradually working towards realisation, and it is a feature of the movement that the area seems to extend with the lapse of time. Sir Daniel Hall, if we remember rightly, began by projecting the idea of a farm of 2,000 acres. Later writers and students argue that 4,000 acres would be more economical. Now on a holding of 4,000 acres a very considerable staff would find employment, and it is desirable that the villages should be put up or adapted to their need.

P. A. G.



# LORD LEVERHULME'S NEW RESIDENCE

MOOR PARK, HERTS.

**M**OOR PARK has been fortunate in passing into the hands of Lord Leverhulme, whose sympathetic interest in architecture is well known. In addition, his acquisitions of choice furniture of the eighteenth century will now be housed in a mansion which is worthy of such a collection.

The history of the house has been fully set out in *COUNTRY LIFE* in Mr. Lawrence Weaver's two articles (1912), which gave a careful survey of its varied ownerships and successive alterations. Leoni in 1720 had a difficult task,

subsequently removed in 1785, really arises from this fundamental compromise.

The Italian architect as one of the Burlington School was, at his best, by no means an original thinker. It is most interesting to see him at work in Lincoln's Inn Fields rashly engaged in improving upon the design of Inigo Jones. His house adjacent to the work of that master has all the advantage of being in stone, while the earlier one, being painted, has the effect of stucco, though it may have been originally part stone and brick. Leoni eliminates Jones' pedestal



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THE GREAT PORTICO, BY LEONI.

"COUNTRY LIFE."

that of recasing an older four-storeyed brick house within the limits of the orthodox Palladianism which he professed. The basement being below ground, his Corinthian Order had to embrace three storeys instead of the usual two. Palladio, regarded as the Restorer of Architecture, was a systematiser set on the application of the remains of Romano-Greek temple architecture to palace building. He succeeded best when the Order had only to decorate a "Piano Nobile" raised upon a visible basement which, by Italian custom, was not required for residential purposes. Leoni had against him the English tradition and desire for living apartments on the ground floor. The stilted effect of Moor Park, which later on Robert Adam strove to modify by two great quadrant wings of one storey, erected for Dundas about 1763, but

to the Order, which doubtless shocked his Palladian puritanism by its Greek-like proportions, the die being oblong instead of considerably exceeding the square in height. Each change he makes in compliance with his system really derogates from the model of Inigo Jones, whose study of Palladio was informed by a far superior insight.

Moor Park was already too complete with its rich decorations and Thornhill frescoes to afford any scope for Adam innovations in 1763. The singular tea pavilion with its palm tree decorations most probably arose from certain theoretical speculations on the origin of the Orders which were passing through Robert Adam's mind at the time. In less than a decade from this early period the revolution Robert had in view was so clearly developed that he was



then dealing drastically with those works of the earlier Georgians that came into his hands. Moor Park thus remains as a typical specimen of the earlier school, less domestic in character than Inigo Jones and Wren, being more in touch with the work of William Kent, Italianate after the manner of Venice, and showing no sign of the impending revolution of taste.

The immense cost of Benjamin Styles' palatial essay, £150,000, was doubtless in large part due to the retention of the earlier brick structure. Works of recasing of this character are proverbial for unexpected costliness, as Wyatt's son found at Apsley House when he treated Adam's brick

house for Lord Bathurst as Leoni had dealt with Monmouth's, but in the last 1820 version of the classic tradition, the result in that case being that the Duke classed architects ever after with the contractors he had threatened to hang in the Peninsula. Probably the Adam wings at Moor Park containing stables and servants' quarters were inexpensively constructed, and the house being so vast, already their removal in 1785 by Thomas Bates Rous, a Director of the East India Company, seemed essential, stables at a distance from the house having become well nigh universal. Cipriani, who painted the ceiling of the dining-room in the 1763 period, was probably introduced by Adam, as he was also sent on



a visit to Bowood in company with Holland senior, the builder who was employed in connection with the earlier work there by Adam. The chimneypiece of the same room from the Borghese Palace might have been obtained through James Adam, who was still in Italy in 1763, from which country he returned probably after the middle of that year. Some work was also being done in Dundas' town house in Arlington Street, where Adam had a freer hand in the decorations.

Walpole's scornful reference to "Capability" Brown's "mole hills" at Moor Park (July, 1760) in Anson's time of ownership is interesting, because the fashionable landscape

gardener appears soon after at Bowood, where he had more scope for the manufacture of one of those artificial lakes of which he was so proud. If Anson had employed any architect, it would have been James Stuart. Dundas, his successor, however, was a family friend of the Adams.

It is the completeness of the house, without and within, that makes it so valuable a specimen of its period. When we realise how much has vanished that was characteristic of this great house-building epoch, the prosperous age of Sir Robert Walpole, it is satisfactory to know that Moor Park is now assured of a most sympathetic consideration.

ARTHUR T. BOLTON, F.S.A.

## THE QUEST FOR BEAUTY IN PHOTOGRAPHY

By F. C. TILNEY.

THE pictures accompanying this article are reproductions from prints now exhibited at the London Salon of Photography. They represent a few of the different styles by which amateur pictorial photographers give expression to their ideas of what camera pictures should be. The Salon has always been the home of advanced work, and particularly of the kind resulting from "control"; that is,

manipulation and treatment in the printing processes. As it happens, however, the examples here given are for the most part fairly "straight" prints; that of "The Water Carriers," by Alexander Keighley, being the one most relying on manual treatment for its particular effect.

There have always been enthusiasts who maintain that handwork, not being photography, has therefore no place in works



C. J. Marvin.

STAIRWAY, SAN GABRIEL MISSION.

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that claim to be photographs—quite a logical contention. But another faction protests that its aim is to produce pictures; and when photography does not give all that artistic vision demands it must be helped out by any means that make up the deficiency. That is equally logical. The difference is merely in the point of view. Most disagreement is the result of surface confusion. When people get deep enough into each other's consciousness and find the naked truth of matters divested of the disguises of language and the trappings of bias, they come to perfect agreement.

Mr. Ward Muir, upon whose work an illustrated article was contributed in last week's issue by Mr. Charles Marriott, maintains that in order to produce photographs of beauty it is not

beauty of natural effect, of lighting, of gradation, of planes are more than half the battle; and it is precisely in these matters that photography fails us most. Mr. Ward Muir prefers those facts in which photography is most trustworthy. The difference between him and the controllers is purely one of the point of view.

If we love those scenes in nature that are made up of unrelenting straight lines, of hard edges, of oddly shaped masses that are flat fields of unbroken tone, we shall, of course, try to reproduce them, and we shall find that the camera can do it for us extremely well.

A glance at the pictures given here will reveal the point of view of their various authors. In every case the aim has been



oil by J. Steele.

THE COBBLERS.

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necessary to adopt the hundred and one methods of control now in use by artistic amateurs. As Mr. Marriott points out, the acceptance of this assertion depends upon what is meant by beauty. I would suggest, further, that it also depends upon several other things. "Photography deals with facts," says Mr. Ward Muir; but we know, to our sorrow, that it does not always, even at its best, render truly the facts that it deals with. "Point your camera at a beautiful fact and you will get a beautiful photograph" is, therefore, a *non sequitur*. And what are these facts? In Mr. Ward Muir's exhibition we find them practically all facts of form. But our ideas of beauty must never be limited to the form of objects. In landscape, above all, the

either light or movement—the dynamic charm of nature rather than the static. The position of the amateur photographer to-day is that of the French School of Painting when the Barbizon painters sought the secret charm of landscape. The charm they sought affects us all, whether we know it or not. It lies not in things themselves, but in the aspect of things given by conditions of the atmosphere and of light. Anything less than this is still-life out of doors, not landscape.

To achieve this charm is often enough beyond the power of photography. The relationship of the sky to the earth, to mention only one instance, seems a matter of compromise more



*Alex. Keighley.*

WATER CARRIERS.

*Copyright.*

than of true achievement. All the ingenuity of scientists to produce lenses, screens, and light-filters that could bring about an approximation to certain truths of tone relation has, so far, only succeeded in approaching a few of the aspects of that greater truth which is the sum of human experience in vision. And in art there is no criterion but this experience. If scientific advancement makes it possible to get a blue sky and bright clouds on one plate, it does so at the sacrifice of that luminosity in the blue in which the eye of the artist rejoices. Difficulties of exposure seem likely always to make the rendering of tone values a more insurmountable task for the photographer than it is for the painter. The painter has only to train his eye to nice discrimination, and his hand will obey; but the more a photographer is alive to the subtleties of his subject the more he despairs that his unresponsive apparatus of wood, glass and brass remains at the point where the quest started. I have known photography and photographers for twenty-five years, and every year I receive the confidences of men of zeal and enthusiasm who tell me they can get no further; that their higher flights are retarded by the gross inefficiency of their medium.

It is to such that the control methods of printing hold out some ray of hope. It may be in many cases a mere will-o'-the-wisp; but there it is, beckoning, reviving enthusiasm, leading to further quest. Many men have become sensitive devotees of the beauties of nature by their practice of pictorial photography—artists in the inner sense of the word. Development of this sort does not stop while Nature is there to be seen and eyes have power to see her. Such men have achieved the coveted power of knowing what they want, and in their indomitable determination to try, at least, to get it they adopt all the subterfuges, all the means and methods they can invent to bend the unyielding processes to their will. To them control in printing is not dodging photography; it is making pictures.

There is this further side to the question. Photography is in no way traduced or belittled by the adventitious aids I have referred to. A visitor to the Salon, if he has only the popular idea of what snapshotting and local chemist's developing and printing means, will be astounded at the dignity, the beauty, the meaning of almost all the exhibits in the gallery. And some of them are masses of manipulation. A combining of many

negatives in one result, retouching, toning down, suppression and strengthening of accents, elimination of redundant details,

*Sir Wm. Beardsell.*

THE SUNBEAM.

*Copyright.*

diffusion in printing as well as in focussing, and all the modifications of tonal strength offered by oil and bromoil printing—all these resources could be confessed to if the exhibitors were on oath. What does it matter? They are satisfied. Their work is admired by people of taste and judgment, and the Salon flourishes apace.

Those who would confine all their control to the processes anterior to printing—a most illogical postulate—lose sight of this important point. The skill, knowledge and judgment necessary for successful control make up a serious obligation, the triumphant discharge of which is, in itself, an art education. It is on a far higher level than the technician's attempts to get the last ounce out of the automatic processes which, in their most propitious conditions, can only occasionally render the truthful record of a scene that happens to be beautiful as it stands.

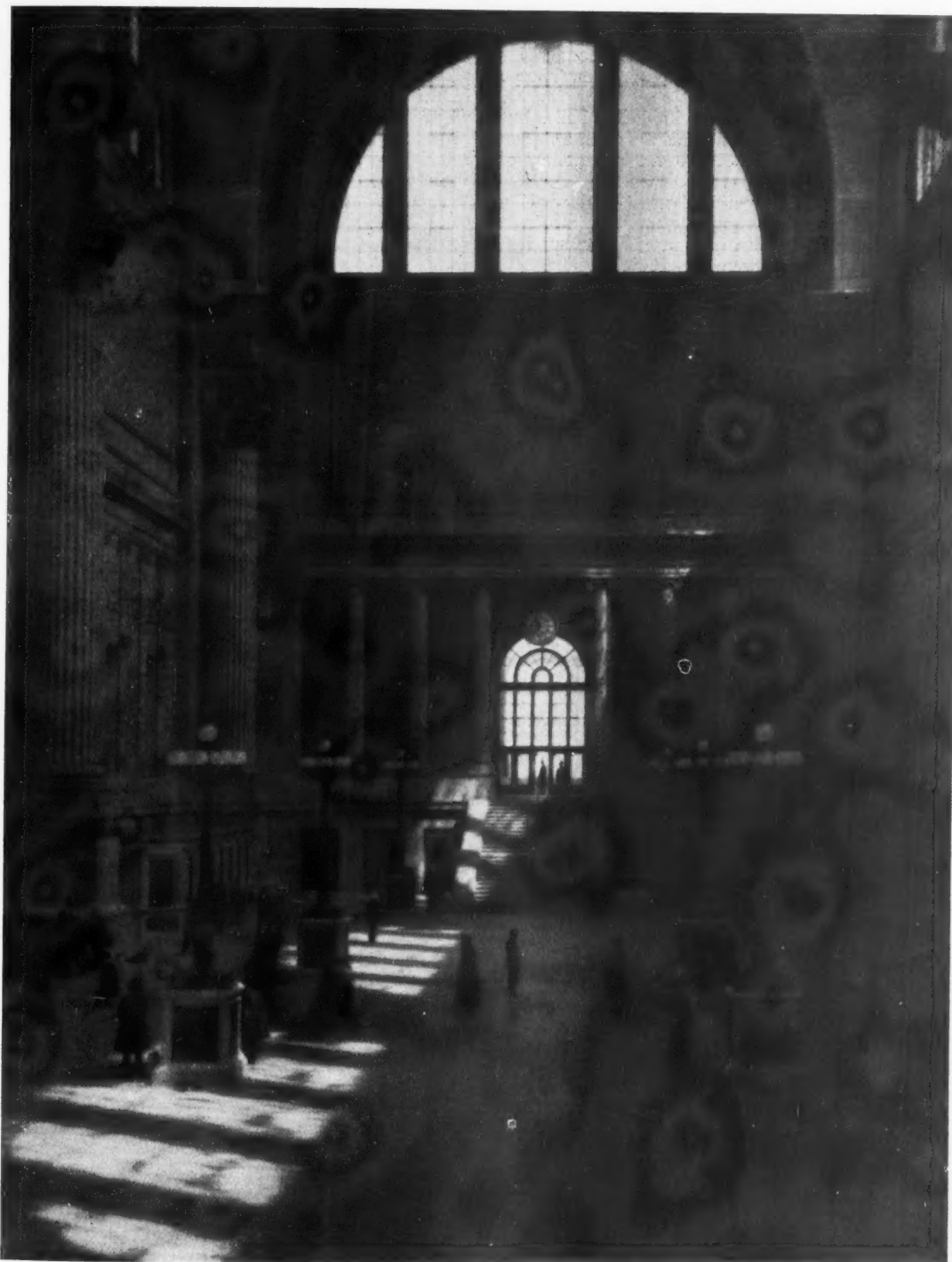
In these days a pictorial photographer is not fully instructed who has not learnt those additional secrets which are communicated in every photographic club and society.

Those who wish to be artists must know something also of art traditions. The art of the painter is entirely unlike that of

the photographer, and men of Mr. Keighley's stamp have made reputations for their style of work. His is a distinct style, akin to that of the romantic painters. He suppresses half that the photograph gives him, and imparts something of that glamour of romantic nature which could only chance to be complete before the camera once in a thousand times. His "Water Carriers" gives the veil of hazy light that he probably did not himself see in the scene, but which his mental vision comprehended. The background is dreamlike, typical. It does not aim at topographical interest. The figures are strong in tone; they are the foil to all the hazy dream beyond.

In Mr. Steele's "Cobblers" much the same Oriental languor is secured. It is a scheme of tone. The brightness of the square, particularly of the wall on the right, tells of the blaze of light and the heat. The cobblers in the foreground are the foil to this, and no doubt there is more of the effect due to Mr. Steele's artistry than even appears on the surface.

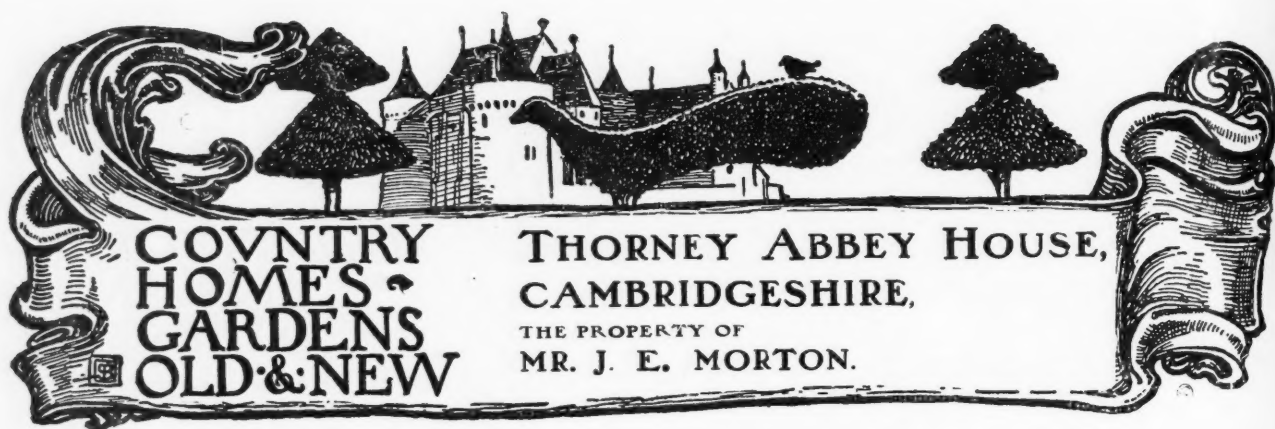
A visit to the Salon will demonstrate how effectual control can be for getting elusive qualities that are denied to straight work both in portraiture and landscape.



Dr. D. J. Ruzicka.

PENNSYLVANIAN STATION, N.Y.

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**T**HORPE, which has just been described and illustrated in these pages, appears not to have been the only house in the Peterborough neighbourhood with which John Webb was concerned, for there is a house lying east of Peterborough that has every appearance of having been designed by him, of having survived with little alteration, and of representing in an interesting and delightful manner his treatment of a house very much more modest than Thorpe both in size and get-up.

I have come across no record of its being built, but the history of the estate it is on will furnish us with a reason and a date for its erection and add to the probability of Webb being its designer.

Thorney was one of the group of great and wealthy monastic houses that gained possession of vast areas of the Fen country and worked for centuries at its reclamation. The greatest of its neighbours were Peterborough and Ely, but Crowland and Ramsey also held their heads high, and all five, as one Gothic style followed another, reared and enlarged and rebuilt splendid minsters and noble conventual buildings. Small portions only remain at Thorney. The whole church became a roofless ruin, and the greater part entirely disappeared; but a remainder was re-roofed and repaired as the church of a flourishing and increasing village in Charles I's time. Of domestic buildings there is no visible trace, though the chief house of the place, standing near the west end of the church, no doubt is largely built of their materials, and, half buried in the offices, there is a column or two which will be some remnant of an arcading.

The Dissolution brought decay and ruin not only to the Fenland monasteries themselves, but to the lands which had been laboriously reclaimed and vigilantly guarded. A twelfth century chronicler tells us that Thorney "represented a very Paradise for that, in pleasure and delight, it resembleth Heaven itself, the very marshes abounding in trees whose length without knots do emulate the stars. The plain there is as level as the sea which with the flourishing of grass allureth the eye, and so smooth that there is nothing to hinder him that runs through it. Neither is there any waste place in it; for in some parts thereof are apple trees, in other vines which either spread upon the ground or are raised up with poles." Some 20,000 acres, "lying entirely together," belonged to the convent, and land and buildings "were granted in the third year of King Edward the Sixth to John Earl of Bedford," as Dugdale informs us. A report on it was made under Elizabeth for William Cecil, which shows that only 600 acres were pasture and wood, but that there were "16,000 acres of fen grounds dispersely grown with sedge fother, reed, willow and alder woods of five years' growth, worth 200l.; the grounds worth 6d. per acre, in all, by year 600l., which in memory having been dry and firm lye now surrounded (for the most part) in water by reason of the drains, ever sithence uncast, and other the infinite watercourses suffered to grow up." This estate of the Russells was part of the 300,000 acres of the "Great Level," once so flourishing, but by the close of the sixteenth century, through neglect and lack of organised effort and maintenance, a marshy waste. With James I's reign began a movement for reclamation. The "total drowning of the Great Level" was recognised as a disgrace,







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2.-A CORNER OF THE ENTRANCE FRONT.

"COUNTRY LIFE."



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3.—GATE AND STABLES FACING THE CHURCH.

"COUNTRY LIFE."

and the King declared that "for the succour of his Kingdom he would not any longer suffer those countries to be abandoned to the will of the waters or let them lie waste and unprofitable." There was little produce beyond fish and fowl, and, worse still, it afforded "overmuch harbour to a rude and almost barbarous sort of lazy and beggarly people." "Sessions of Sewers" were called and surveys made. Then,

in 1630, as Holland had so admirably solved the problem of making below sea level lands dry and fertile, Cornelius Vermuyden came over as principal adviser, while Francis, fourth Earl of Bedford, took the lead of organising the work and finding the money. The attempt was more costly than successful. By 1638 it was found that the Earl and his fellow undertakers had spent £100,000 and were at the end



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4.—THE EAST END FROM THE KITCHEN GARDEN.

"COUNTRY LIFE."





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5.—FROM THE PAVED TERRACE.

"COUNTRY LIFE."

*Showing the gate into the kitchen garden and the portal out of it.*

of their resources. Thereupon Charles I took over the whole, allotting 40,000 acres to the shareholders in satisfaction of their claim. But Charles's personal government was already tottering to its fall. The Civil War ensued, and the Thorney region, now known as the Bedford Level, was again threatened with a "total drowning." At that moment the fourth Earl died and was succeeded by his son William.

Like his father, who was "of intimate trust" with Oliver St. John, the Commonwealth chief justice and owner of Thorpe, the fifth Earl of Bedford had been opposed to the Government of Strafford and Laud. But being moderate and compromising by nature he was ill fitted for political leadership at a time of crisis, when appeal was made to the sword. On the Parliamentary side till 1643, he then went



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6.—THE SOUTH AND WEST ELEVATIONS.

"COUNTRY LIFE."





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7.—THE STABLE-YARD PIERS.

"COUNTRY LIFE."



8.—PEDIMENTED PORTAL LEADING OUT OF THE KITCHEN GARDEN.

over to the King for a few months, hoping to effect a reconciliation. He failed to ingratiate himself with Charles's friends, and meanwhile was held as an enemy to the Parliament which sequestered his estates. Finding himself "between the devil and the deep sea" he left Oxford and returned to Westminster, where, asking pardon, he was forgiven, but not trusted. Young, capable and energetic he looked round for an occupation, and his eye settled on the fen land. He sat no more in the Long Parliament; nor during the existence of the Commonwealth did he take any part in public affairs. He retired into private life, "residing chiefly at his seat at Thorney Abbey within the precincts of the Great Level."

Never before or after, but only at this time and for this reason did the dwelling on the site of Thorney Abbey become the residence of the lay owner of the estate. It is, therefore, the moment when we should expect some additional and well devised building to be undertaken, and that is exactly what we find. The square house (Fig. 1) added on to a narrow gabled building of Elizabethan character is in that style "little used in England before," which, as late as 1660, "made more talk than it deserved" at Thorpe. Thorpe was begun in 1653 at latest, and in that year the Earl of Bedford in Ely Cathedral had heard a sermon from Hugh Peters, chaplain to Cromwell, and had received the "instrument" which Parliament had passed for the government of the Great Level. Four years earlier, when the new scheme took shape, the first place in it had been given to him as the most interested and active party, and he seems always to have been present at business meetings. In 1656, Cromwell being now Lord Protector, further powers were given to the governing body, and, again at Ely, there is a meeting "of the participants and adventurers for dreyning of the Great Levell of the Fennes." At the head of the list of those "constituted and ordained to bee lords of the said Great Levell" are the names of the Earl of Bedford and of Chief Justice St. John, the latter having drawn up the constituting Act, and his name being commemorated in the level by "St. John's Eau." Both were still working together as owners and administrators of fen land, and there is every reason to suppose that both used the same architect to



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9.—THE UPPER FLIGHTS OF THE STAIRCASE.

"COUNTRY LIFE."

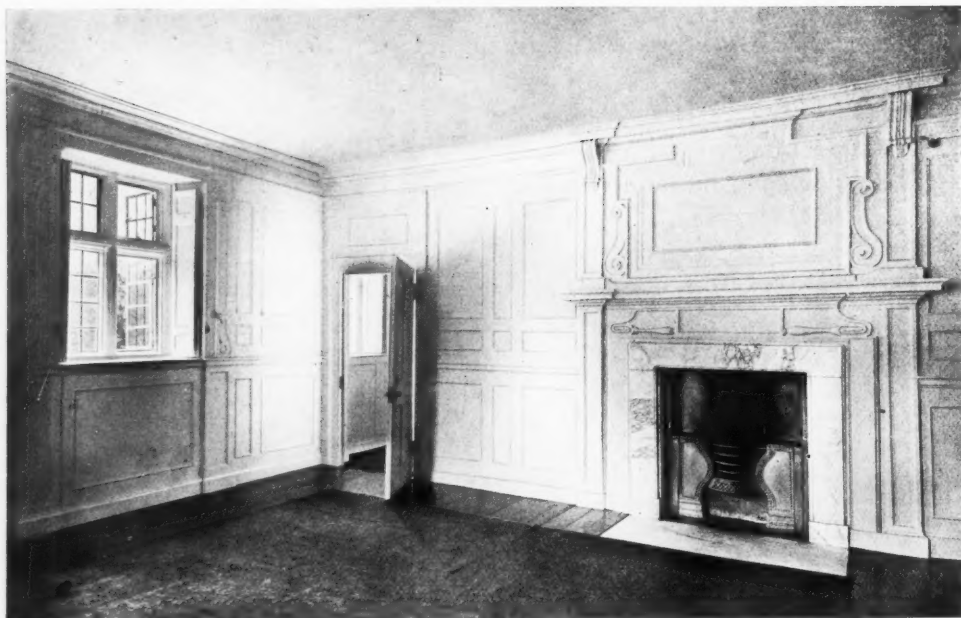


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10.—THE LOWER FLIGHTS OF THE STAIRCASE.

"COUNTRY LIFE."

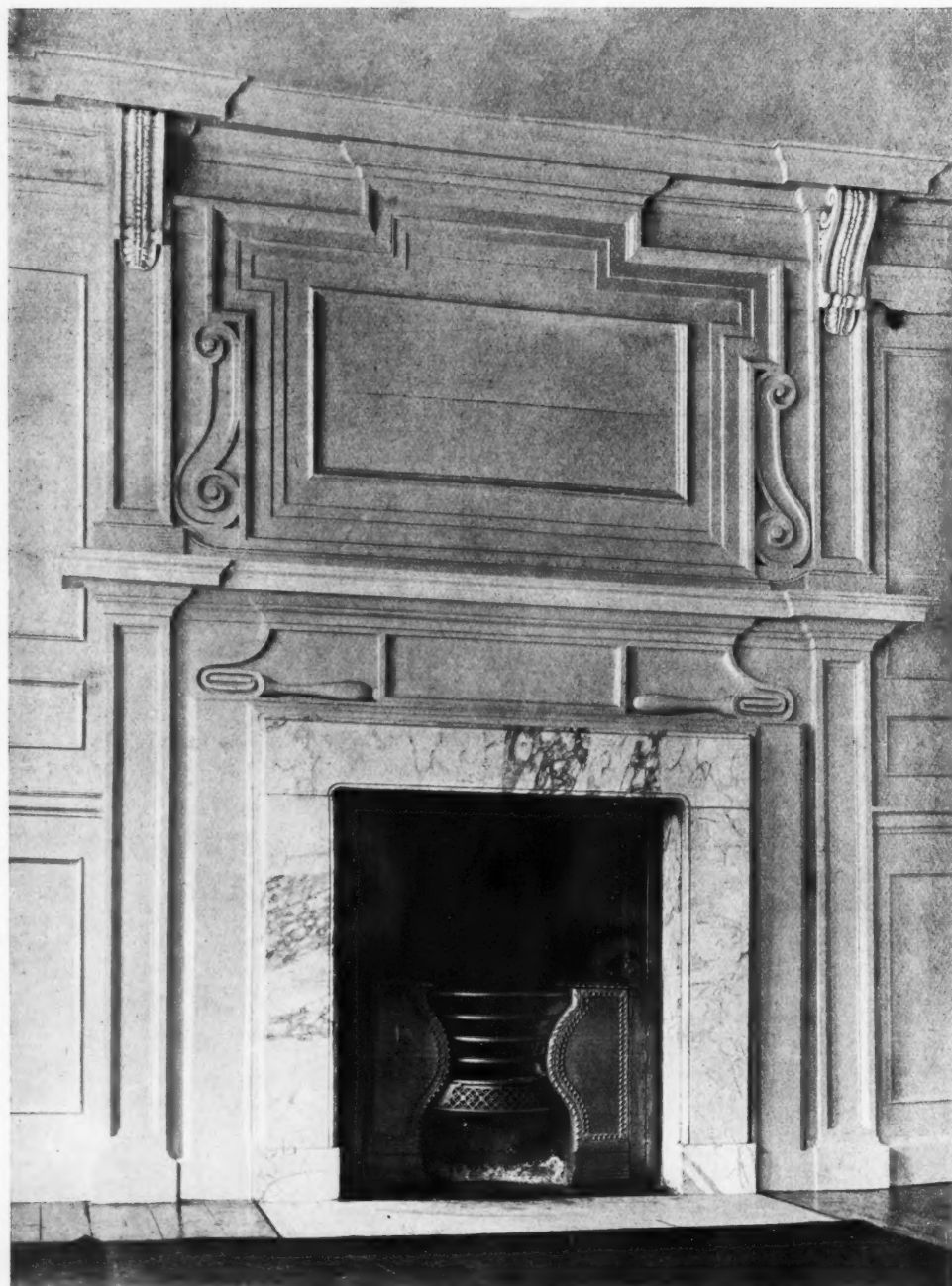




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11.—A CORNER OF THE WHITE ROOM.

"COUNTRY LIFE."



Copyright.

12.—CHIMNEYPIECE IN THE WHITE ROOM.

"COUNTRY LIFE."

house them in the same neighbourhood and at the same time.

The Elizabethan report on the Russells' Thorney estate states that: "The site where the said monastery stood contains a dwelling house of stone in length 60 feet, in breadth 20 feet, covered with slate, and seated towards the midst of the whole lands upon a fair drain extending east and west, whereupon also is remaining the body of the church without roof and half of the steeple standing with certain other decayed parts walls and vaults of the said church and monastery and divers other edifices about the same of freestone." All of that we can trace now, but there is nothing decayed. The stone-built group of church and houses that edge the village green and are bosomed in the great lines of trees that follow the course of the canals or "fair drains" show age indeed, but are in excellent repair. It is a picturesque old-world corner, but likewise the centre of a well cared for and progressive agricultural estate. The buildings which the fourth and fifth Earls of Bedford repaired or erected remain, and so also does their improving spirit.

Though the Russell ownership has recently ceased, there remains round Thorney green a happy blending of the past and the present. The church takes you back to monkish days. The chief and other houses tell of the successful effort of the Russells and their leading dependants to create property, to make and maintain productive land where Nature provided only desolate marsh. The smiling fields and neat gardens proclaim that agricultural prosperity reigns as the result of good leadership and administration within an area where intelligence and energy are essential not merely for success, but for survival. We are far away indeed from the days of the "total drowning."

The road running east to west from King's Lynn to Peterborough passes north of old Thorney, but new Thorney has made it its principal street. At the cross road the southern branch, on its way to Whittlesea, soon has the



west end of the church on its left, followed by the dwelling-dotted green; but on the right the outbuildings and then the Elizabethan house edge the road (Fig. 3). A pair of boldly rusticated gate piers marks the entrance into a leafy yard; on the one side lie the stables, on the other smaller, but more detailed, gate piers mark the footway across what was a little forecourt to the original front door set in the centre of the north elevation of the house, but now made into a window. Thus the identically designed south side (Fig. 1) is more representative of the original scheme. Here is a five-windowed elevation with ashlar doorway, window-frames, coigns and string-course, but plastered walling, perhaps covering brick intended to show, as at Tyttenhanger and Eltham. The form and architraving of the windows are in the new manner, but stone mullioning with the Jacobean ovolo is the one survival from the past that the designer has allowed himself throughout at Thorney, although he limited himself at Thorpe to using it in the central windows of the west side. The house is square, and the west side (Fig. 6) resembles the south, except that fewer windows are needed, so that they are three in a row and

of that which there rises from the first to the third floor. The ball and acanthus cup finials, the running wave pattern in the string, the carved "drop" in the post panels, the acanthus enriched balusters and the flat-topped handrail are all there. Against the bottom newel post, both on the ground and on the upper floor, is a strong Webb touch, for here we find the same console masking the ends of the bottom treads that we noted at Thorpe, and it folds trebly over on to itself in the manner repeatedly used at that place, both in stone and wood. At the foot of the stair (Fig. 10) a doorway with broken architrave, central panel and pedimented head leads to the dining-room (Fig. 13), perfectly typical of Webb and on the same scheme as the corresponding room at Thorpe. The wainscoting is practically of the same design. Here are the large panels with the same head as the doors, but without their broken architrave and supporting half pilaster. At Thorpe, however, the doorways, being on a richer and more important scale, have a separate design for their heads, whereas at Thorney doors and panels have the same head, again showing the favourite folded scroll which



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13.—DINING-ROOM CHIMNEYPIECE AND PANELLING.

"COUNTRY LIFE."

wide spaced. Each elevation, except the east on to which the older Elizabethan wing abuts, had a central pedimented doorway. That to the north gave into one end of the hall in the old manner. The other doorways opened into lobbies, for the centre of the house is occupied by the block of the fireplaces, of which the flues are drawn over gradually on both floors to meet in one grand ashlar chimney. The roof is hipped, but not platformed. It dips back into two valleys, and it is from the little intervening ridge that the chimney rises. It is made of the size and design of the four at Thorpe. The shaft is just under 5ft. square, and its rusticated corners enframe a sunk panel and support a complete but unenriched entablature. The retention of the Elizabethan building gave office and other subsidiary accommodation, and the fifth Earl's addition added on the ground floor a hall, dining-room and parlour with an ample staircase leading to three large first floor chambers with dressing-rooms and to garrets above. The staircase (Fig. 9) lay on the left of the hall entrance door. It is in the manner not of the main, but of the subsidiary staircases at Thorpe; indeed, it may almost be called a replica

reappears on an overmantel, resembling that at Thorpe not only in this respect, but in the side panelled pilasters, of which the capitals are overlaid by consoles supporting projecting sections of cornice. The Thorpe and Thorney dining-rooms are merely editions of the same work, the former an *édition de luxe*, the latter for general use. The same scheme still further simplified occurs in the chamber above the dining-room and known as the white room (Fig. 11). The window is charming. The original leading is retained with the stone mullioning; panelled shutters are there to keep out the light and make it unnecessary to hide with curtains the apt framing, which includes the usual elements of the broken architrave and the half pilaster, breaking at the base into a scroll. The same scroll is conspicuous on mantel and overmantel (Fig. 12), where we again find a console under a cornice projection and overlying a pilaster. A slight variant occurs in another chamber, showing that Webb—to whom we are surely justified in directly attributing the work—even for a small and simple house spared himself no pains to avoid mechanical reduplication by never quite repeating himself, although

sedulously adhering to the main lines of the chosen design. The other rooms of the Webb building have been somewhat modernised, although under the wallpapers one can feel the same flat wainscoting that is visible in the white room. Of the Elizabethan part, the most charming remnant is the inner south gable that retains its two-storeyed bay with little gabled top (Fig. 2). The outer one was probably similar before a single-storeyed addition was set against it. It is in the narrow connecting link between the Elizabethan and the Commonwealth buildings that the columns occur which seem to imply the incorporation of a monastic fragment.

The chief garden area lies along the very slightly falling ground to the west, and here again we are reminded of Thorpe. Against the west side of the house is a raised paved and balustered terrace. Stepping down from it (Fig. 5) we are faced by another pair of rusticated gate piers (Fig. 4) leading into the kitchen garden. Facing it, at the bottom of this enclosure, we have a pedimented portal (Fig. 8) which is the little brother of those that occur in the north wall of Thorpe. There the height is considerable and therefore the aperture is arch-headed, but cut that away and you have the Thorney example. The chief justice was founding a family and creating a principal and adequate seat. The Earl was merely adding somewhat to a subsidiary and temporarily occupied house. Hence a very great divergence of scale and sumptuousness, but otherwise so close a similarity as to lead to the conclusion that they were worked out on the same drawing board and represent the same ideas of construction and decoration differentiated for their separate needs.

A few words will carry us from Commonwealth times to our own. The Restoration brought the Earl back to the

centre of things; but, though at the Coronation he bore St. Edward's staff, he never held office of importance, and soon became ranked as one of the anti-Court party. He voted for the Exclusion Bill which his son Lord Russell championed and carried through the Commons in 1680, but which the Lords threw out. He was not, however, in favour of "direct action," and his name was never connected with the Rye House Plot which cost his son his life in 1683. But his Whiggism stood him in good stead when the Revolution came, and he bore the sceptre at the Coronation of William and Mary in 1689 and was made a Duke five years later. All this while Woburn was his principal home, and the retired life he lived there was much criticised by his neighbour Lord Ailesbury, who describes him as: "A graceful old nobleman, and his outside was all. He always had lived to himself, and his company in the summers were only his relations from London or else where, and sometimes some lords and gentlemen, lovers of bowling and cards, for about a week, but few or none of the country gentlemen ever went thither." Thorney became a far away portion of a great estate administered on business principles, except that so much capital was constantly put into it that it was never a source of clear revenue. As such it did not appear to the present Duke as a possession worth retaining. It were better not only for him but for the occupiers if they became owners. The greater part bought their holdings at a price advantageous to themselves. The Abbey House and an ample stretch of farm lands are now the property of Mr. Morton, who is fully alive to the singular merits of the house as a combination of the picturesque Elizabethan manner with a small but finished example of the early days of our Late Renaissance style. H. AVRAY TIPPING.

## GIRL CHAMPIONS AT GOLF

BY BERNARD DARWIN.

"'LL tell you what, sir," said Mr. Vincent Crummles, "the talent of this child is not to be imagined. She must be seen, sir—seen—to be ever so faintly appreciated." It was impossible not to think of the Infant Phenomenon when one saw Miss Nancy Griffiths, aged twelve, and her sister, Miss Barbara, aged thirteen, playing in the Girls' Championship at Stoke Poges, nor, I think, can anyone who did not see them imagine the neatness and precision of their play. Neither survived the

first round, but to qualify was in itself an achievement, since a girl for the purposes of the *Gentlewoman* Tournament is a lady under twenty-one: players had qualified from all parts of the kingdom, and among them was one, Miss Marion Alexander from Ireland, who has already come near to winning a championship. Both these very small ladies have the easy, natural style of one "teethed on a golf club." Their drives of 130yds. or so were extremely accurate; they pitched very neatly, and out of rough grass



MISS NANCY GRIFFITHS TEEING THE BALL.



and bunkers which must to them have been hay-fields and abysses, showed considerable powers of recovery. Miss Barbara was beaten comparatively easily, but Miss Nancy must have given her opponent, Miss Nicholson, some dreadfully anxious moments. The match was, indeed, one between David and Goliath, and one could not but feel some sympathy with poor Goliath contemplating with horror the possibility of defeat. At the end of the eighth hole Miss Nancy stood 2 up and really seemed likely to win. Then Miss Nicholson pulled herself together, and after that the end was inevitable; but her small adversary struggled heroically. Both she and her sister played with a coolness and calmness that veterans might envy. No shade of emotion ever crossed their faces, and neither ever addressed her ball in a bunker, as did another young competitor, as "Oh, you beast!"

Another wearer of the pigtail—and it whirled through the air with the vigour of her hitting—Miss Rhona Rabbidge, got through the first round, but fell to Miss Alexander in the second. She is, I believe, just sixteen, and for her age and size possesses astonishing power. Too many ladies let the club flop gracefully but ineffectually upon the ball. Not so Miss Rabbidge: she opened her shoulders with something of the action of a cricketer and gave the ball "a good hard knock." She did not always hit it straight, and the chances she threw away were enough to make casual spectators, not to say aunts and mothers, weep; but that priceless natural gift of hitting should make a fine golfer of her some day.

With Miss Rabbidge's defeat the picturesqueness of pigtails disappeared from the lists, but Miss Audrey Croft nobly upheld the honour of the hair-downs against the hair-ups, for she won the tournament. It was a fine feat, for she is only a little over seventeen and this was her first competition. I am not often a good prophet, and when I am I like to boast of it. After seeing Miss Croft play three holes in the first round, I said she was the best player in the field. This did not, perhaps, require much intelligence, so eminently sound is she in all her methods. Many ladies commit two crimes with which I have the strongest fellow-feeling. They swing too far and they curtsy with their knees. Miss Croft keeps her right knee stiff and her body still, and has the club admirably under control. She has had great educational advantages, for she lives close to a good course, Ashford Manor; she has a good golfer for her father and devoted tutor, and Mr. Hilton close at hand to be called in as a consulting expert. The result was obvious in her bag of clubs. They were none of your flibbity-gibbity, jimcrack, weak-shafted "ladies' clubs," but real clubs, stolen by stealthy degrees from her father's bag, with a putter contributed by that master of the art, Mr. Sidney Fry. Her driver, I incidentally found, was longer than my own; yet, even so, it was only by Mr. Hilton's express command



MISS AUDREY CROFT, THE WINNER.  
*With her father and caddy.*



GOLIATH AND DAVID.  
*Miss Nicholson and Miss Nancy Griffiths.*





MISS CROFT AND MISS PHYLLIS READ IN THE SEMI-FINAL.

that she had allowed an inch to be cut off it. I shall be both surprised and disappointed if Miss Croft does not some day win the championship. We saw, I fancy, only brilliant flashes of her best game at Stoke, and she will yet improve.

Miss Christina Clarke, who lost to Miss Croft in the final by one hole, was a player of a very different type to her conqueror. She has not Miss Croft's style or her power, but she had something of superior years and experience to help her, and she is a most courageous fighter who plays with her head. She was the steadiest putter in the field and she showed a just appreciation of the importance of keeping out of bunkers.

Of the two semi-finalists, Miss Marion Alexander has a fine style, if somewhat too florid, and great power, but she lacks some of the unobtrusive virtues of her conqueror, Miss Clarke. She must learn first to keep out, and secondly to get out, of bunkers. If she can cultivate somewhat quieter

methods, she has great possibilities. Miss Phyllis Read had been very unwell only a short time before, and struggled gallantly in face of this disadvantage. A ferocious waggle is, in her case, the prelude to a steady, well controlled stroke, and Ritchie, the Worplesdon professional, has taught her to play her iron shots crisply and with a "nip" in them. Of the others, Miss Jean Alexander and Miss Heaton seemed to me the best, and Miss Phyllis Taylor showed herself a dogged trier against Miss Croft.

If the golf of the players was exciting, the behaviour of their parents was amusing. Their anxiety over their offspring "took them" in different ways. Mr. Croft carried his daughter's clubs, showed her the line of every curly putt, and generally "gied her a sight of good advice." It was a pleasant and interesting spectacle to those who like golf played in the old-fashioned way, wherein the caddie identifies



MISS RHONA RABBIDGE.



MISS BARBARA GRIFFITHS.

himself wholly with his master or mistress and speaks of the partnership as "we." Other parents went round with their daughters in a silent agony of apprehension, doing their chivalrous best to be just to the opposing side. Others, again, only took occasional glances from vantage points. There was one parent whom no number of wild horses could drag

within sight of her daughter. Once, however, she arrived at the wrong green by mistake and had to take what cover she could behind the attenuated form of a spectator. Fortunately, this proved effective, for the daughter played a capital shot to win the hole, and the mother slunk happily away.

## THE TETRARCH AND TETRATEMA COMPARED

A LETTER from a correspondent gives me an opportunity to discuss quite an interesting point. "You seem to be very much impressed," he writes, "with the two year old Tetratema. Do you regard him as being as good as his famous sire, The Tetrarch, was at the same age?"

The answer is in the negative. Let me explain. First, I do not think it is possible for any horse that will ever be foaled to be as dazzlingly brilliant as The Tetrarch was. No horse ever made so deep an impression on me. He was so far above all his contemporaries, so remote from his nearest rival. Then what he could do with speedy old horses in trials at home has no parallel in the known history of trials. I think his son Tetratema, the star of 1919, is beyond all doubt a high-class colt and the champion of his age. He is probably well above the average of a champion two year old, for he has won all his races so easily, and I am convinced we have some good two year olds this year. However, in order to give my correspondent a direct answer, I carried his enquiry to the fountain head, and the reply I received fully bears out what I have written above. The Tetrarch's pre-eminence is not seriously challenged, for the good reason that the exalted position he made for himself is considered to be unassailable. Yet there is abundant satisfaction in realising that Tetratema is so excellent, and it may well be that he is destined to go through his career unbeaten. For what my own opinion may be worth let me say that he is more correctly shaped and made than The Tetrarch. The latter was abnormal in so many ways. It is argued that the famous grey will never get a stayer, but the two year old may be destined to shatter that notion. He is built like a stayer, for he stands on short, sound limbs, and he is perfectly balanced. He races like one, too. The Tetrarch used to paralyse his opponents in the first hundred yards, and then he would just canter further and further away from them. Tetratema is not capable of leaving his horses in the same pulverising and wonderful way, but his grand speed is sustained by stamina which enables him to leave them in very definite fashion in the last furlong. My correspondent may be assured that he is a very fine colt and easily the champion of his year, but he is not another Tetrarch. As I said at the outset, I can never expect to see another super-horse such as he was as a two year old, his only season on the racecourse.

The racing man's interest at the moment is divided. Those who permit themselves to discuss the politics of the Turf are concerned with the agitation among owners and breeders for more generous recognition from racecourse executives, even from the Jockey Club members. They see greater crowds going racing in 1919 than was the case in 1914 and in the years before, and yet stakes remain as tardy and entry fees and forfeits as formidable as ever. The burden, too, is made all the more apparent by reason of the greater cost of maintaining horses in training. I refer, of course, to the bigger wages bill and the heavier cost of forage. I know that wonderful affluence is suggested by the amazing prices obtained for yearlings at the recent Doncaster sales, but who made themselves responsible for them? Not the pre-war class of owner, but those who have amassed wealth during the war. One does not object to their advent; indeed, racing and breeding can well do with the access of wealth, but it is as well to bear in mind that the suggested wealth is not general. It merely applies to a few fortunate individuals to whom a few more thousands for a yearling which is desired are quite a simple matter. The Turf must still depend for its prosperity on the majority—those who kept things going during the war and are now desirous of sharing more liberally in the large revenues which executives are reaping. For a long time past it has been apparent that added money has been

inadequate compared with the formidable size of entry fees and forfeits which go to the executives and enable them to give apparently big stakes.

The other matter of interest is the Autumn Handicaps, the Cesarewitch and Cambridgeshire. They never fail to fascinate the student who likes the chance of backing a winner at a long price. Lord Derby early let it be known that his St. Leger winner, Keysoe, would not compete. Quite possibly she would have won in spite of her 10lb. penalty, but there is true wisdom in giving her every chance to fulfil her high promise to do big things as a four year old by not asking her to do too much as a three year old. Personal inclinations at the moment as regards the Cesarewitch are towards the four year old Unitoi (if he has not won the Newbury Cup due to be decided at the end of this week) and the three year old Gay Lord. The latter has always been a favourite of mine. Both, oddly enough, are by that noted sire of stayers, Santoi, who in the past has



W. A. Rouch.

THE TETRARCH AS A TWO YEAR OLD.

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*The greater father of a great son.*

given us three winners of the Cesarewitch in Ventoi, Fiz Yama and Sanctum. The Cambridgeshire is a long way off yet, but I shall watch with much interest the progress of My Dear (9st. 2lb.), Chuette (7st. 13lb.), Dominion (7st. 13lb.) and Tetrarchia (7st. 11lb.).

Two well known horses died during the last few days. One was Tom Pepper, a four year old which won the Chester Cup this year and was sold at auction in the summer to Mr. Watkin Williams for 3,500 guineas. He never even ran once for his new owner, who has still to win his first race on the flat; but he does not seem dismayed by his bad luck, as he has steadily added to his new stable of horses. The day will come, of course, when he must make a very big "splash," for his recent heavy purchases of yearlings included the 8,000 guinea yearling by The Tetrarch from Lisma—the best yearling in my opinion, seen at the Doncaster sales. The other horse to pass out of existence was Dansellon, for whom Mr. Galstaun gave 7,000 guineas, only to find that he died the day after landing in India. He was to have won the Viceroy's Cup in due course. Poor Dansellon was always unfortunate. Second to Gay Crusader for the New Derby of 1917, second for the Cambridgeshire of 1918, and third for the City and Suburban and Jubilee Handicap of 1919. Poor Dansellon! "And poor me!" I suppose Mr. Galstaun will say.

PHILIPPUS.



## THE ESTATE MARKET

# EAGER COMPETITION FOR FARMS

**S**ALES such as those recorded in COUNTRY LIFE in the last fortnight necessarily occur but rarely, and for its normal activity the market relies upon less distinguished properties, which, fortunately, are easier to deal with in every way. They are also of real importance to a far wider range of readers than the great Town houses like Devonshire House and Chesterfield House, and domains in the country such as Moor Park and Wood Norton.

On Monday, at Bishop Stortford, Messrs. Knight, Frank and Rutley sold eleven of the fifteen lots of Mrs. Raymond Inglis's Rickling Hall Estate for £21,440. Another sale this week was that by Messrs. Edwin Fear and Walker of Ovington Park, one of the finest fishing estates in Hampshire, 430 acres, near Winchester.

Sutton Scarsdale will be sold at Chesterfield on November 6th, by Messrs. Thurgood and Martin, including the mansion, the scene of fierce fighting in the time of Charles I, and 5,200 acres. Another auction on the same date, at Newbury, is that of Sandford Priory, about 800 acres, by Messrs. Simmons and Sons and Messrs. Lofts and Warner. Geoffrey, Earl of Perche, founded Sandford as an Augustine priory in 1200, and Edward IV granted it to the Collegiate Church of Windsor. There are 800 acres, inclusive of the park of 200 acres, and the house is finely situated at a good elevation.

Castle Hill, the late Mr. George Burt's estate at Rotherfield, is to be sold on October 15th by Messrs. Hampton and Sons. On the same day Messrs. Giddy and Giddy are selling Furze Croft, Maidenhead, and other residences. Sudbrooke Holme, that imposing Georgian mansion and nearly 2,000 acres, will be sold on Thursday next, at Lincoln, by Messrs. John D. Wood and Co. and Mr. J. E. Walters.

Among the many country houses dealt with privately by Messrs. Harrods, Limited, in the last few days is Canford Place, Liphook, a modern house with 115 acres. Messrs. Wilson and Co. and Messrs. J. and R. Kemp and Co. are acting jointly in the sale, on October 20th, of Little Bourton House, Banbury. Beenham House, Berkshire, noted for its stud farm and the fishing in the Kennet, comes under the hammer of Messrs. Collins and Collins on October 23rd on behalf of Captain W. Waring. A Georgian house with prospective building value, The Cedars, close to Richmond Park, will be sold on October 16th by Messrs. Penningtons.

### LORD LEVERHULME'S SALE.

Among the properties which have been dealt with in the last few days may be mentioned the remaining portions of Lord Leverhulme's Lymm estate in Cheshire, about 430 acres. Competition under the hammer of Messrs. Knight, Frank and Rutley was as keen as usual in Cheshire land sales, and a total of over £28,000 was quickly obtained.

The modern mansion in the Tudor style, Ampton Hall, and 2,050 acres (including the villages of Ampton and Timworth, and 900 acres of woodland), was to have been submitted at Bury St. Edmunds, by order of Mr. G. A. Paley, but Messrs. Knight, Frank and Rutley found a purchaser for the whole on the eve of the auction. They have also sold, for Sir C. E. A. W. Hamilton, just over 200 acres of his Iping estate in West Sussex, and, to the tenants, twenty-two lots of the Hartpury estate, extending to 1,722 acres, before the auction.

### SCOTTISH ESTATES.

Abbotrule was appointed for sale at Edinburgh on Thursday last, and sales about to be held by Messrs. Knight, Frank and Rutley of Scottish properties include Pitfour, Aberdeenshire, a residential and sporting estate of 19,432 acres with the Ruins of the Abbey of Deer, and salmon and trout fishing; Arnisdale, on the shores of Loch Hourn, a sporting estate of 9,280 acres; Kinlochewe, Ross-shire, with 60,000 acres, including 19,000 acres of grouse moor; Freeland, Perthshire, a residential estate of 3,220 acres, with mansion house, fourteen farms, small holdings and cottages; Kilmahew, on the Firth of Clyde, a residential estate of 2,000 acres, comprising the mansion house, the historical remains of the Old Castle, Cardross Park and Auchentree, an eighteen-hole golf course and ten farms and cottages and woodlands; Castle Toward, on the shores of the Clyde, a sporting, residential and agricultural estate of 7,000 acres.

### SALES CHIEFLY TO TENANTS.

Remarkable prices were paid for properties at Messrs. Driver, Jonas and Co.'s auction at Hitchin, of the outlying parts of the Hitchin Priory Estate. Over £54,000 was obtained at the auction and privately, and, as showing the inadequacy of most existing rentals, it may be mentioned that farms made up to thirty-six years' purchase, cottages up to fifty years' purchase, and inns from thirty-three to ninety years' purchase. A dairy farm of seventy acres at Winkton, near Christchurch, and the residence, Elmfield House, Calne, have been sold by Messrs.

Edwin Fear and Walker, acting as to the former in conjunction with Mr. H. A. Woof.

Lord Methuen has been successful in disposing of a portion of his Wiltshire estate, a notable lot being Halfway House Farm at Beanacre, Melksham, for £11,000, a high price for 128 acres, yielding an annual rental of £368. Lord Northampton is also among the vendors who have done well in the last few days, Messrs. Lofts and Warner, in conjunction with Messrs. Pendered and Son, Limited, having sold to the tenants the farms at Great Doddington; and, for Mrs. Young, the firms have found a buyer for Little Harrowden, another Northamptonshire holding.

### "THE HANGING JUDGE."

Memories of Judge Jeffreys are more interesting than pleasant, long as it is since his baleful activities ceased, and they are recalled by the sale to the tenant for £4,000 of Holt Lodge Farm, near Wimborne, where that most unjust judge first examined the Duke of Monmouth after that nobleman's arrest a few miles off.

Abbey Cwmhir, the ruins of which are included in the estate of that name, of 6,100 acres, which Messrs. Driver, Jonas and Co. will offer at Llandrindod Wells on October 7th, was once adorned with a finely carved and richly gilt and painted screen, which was removed to the Parish Church of Newtown, Montgomeryshire. The latter district boasts, in Greg-y-Nog, a magnificent example of the carver's art, and it is of interest to note that the mansion is to be let by Messrs. Millar, Son and Co., with or without the furniture, as from next month.

### THE CHESS TOURNAMENT OF '51.

The vaulting ambitions of the "princely" Duke of Chandos, rich beyond the dreams of avarice as the result of holding the post of paymaster to the army in Queen Anne's reign—he was the "Timon" of Pope's scathing satires—were not satisfied by the possession of Canons at Edgware. He set about erecting a Town house which was to occupy the whole of the north side of what is now Cavendish Square, and he further aimed at owning enough land between the two houses to enable him to travel from the one to the other without once going off his own property. His schemes came to a tragical end, the demolition of Canons provided Chesterfield House with its staircase and "canonical pillars," and the frustration of the "Marrowbone"—as Pepys would have called it—building scheme made way for the erection of a number of houses, instead of only one north of the newly formed square. Temporary fame accrued to No. 5, Cavendish Square, in the year of the Great Exhibition—the house being the scene of the International Chess Tournament of 1851, in which the greatest players of that period participated. Sir Herbert Raphael has commissioned Messrs. Mabbett and Edge to dispose of the long lease—900 years or more—direct from the Howard de Walden estate, of No. 5, in the City on November 6th. There is a good deal of work in the house typical of the style of the Adam brothers.

### HOUSES SOLD: FURNITURE FOLLOWS.

The connection between sales of estates and sales of the furniture in the mansion houses is not remote, as shown by at least three noteworthy auctions. The first is Groombridge Park, the second Singleton Abbey, and the third Ruxley Lodge; while that of Wood Norton early this week by Messrs. Curtis and Henson, and at Bishop's Wood Avenue, Highgate, by Messrs. Hampton and Sons, are other cases in point; and so was Messrs. Trollope's sale at Storrington Abbey.

Lord Swansea's sale to the Swansea Corporation of Singleton Abbey is to be followed by the sale, on October 13th and subsequent days, of the contents of the mansion. Messrs. Knight, Frank and Rutley with Messrs. J. M. Leeder and Son, have compiled a catalogue of 116 pages—in reality a fascinating book—enumerating rare and costly volumes, china, tapestries, bronzes, Greek and Roman vases, practically all the periods of English furniture from Jacobean down to Georgian, over 300 pictures, mostly of the old Dutch and Continental schools, and a variety of other treasures.

Messrs. Castiglione and Scott have well timed their auction of Lord Foley's Surrey estate, Ruxley Lodge, for October 13th, the day before the opening of the auction of the contents, thus enabling a buyer of the mansion to secure all he may require under the hammer for his own use. The furniture is of great beauty and representative of the finest antique styles.

Having sold the estate, Messrs. Duncan B. Gray and Partners have this week disposed of the valuable contents of the house. A fine collection of sixteenth and seventeenth century furniture, porcelain, Sheffield plate, old pewter and 1,150oz. of Georgian silver was included in the catalogue. The books were notable for their antiquarian scope, among them being, besides fifty-three volumes of the Sussex Archaeological Collections and thirty volumes of the Archaeologia Cantiana, twelve volumes of Hasted's "Kent," and curious old works like "Country Lasses, or Customs of the Manor" (1753). ARBITER.



# CORRESPONDENCE

## ETON WAR MEMORIAL.

[TO THE EDITOR OF "COUNTRY LIFE."]

SIR,—Mr. Warre has shown great courage in proposing to add a tower to the chapel at Eton and as a lover of fine architecture I hope that he will be able to overcome the objections of conservatism. When you compare his proposal with the South African memorial, you realise at once that the value of his conception is as much greater than the South African memorial as this war is greater than the South African war. The dignity of the whole is great and the low and deep shadowed arch beneath is a gleam of genius. From an architectural point of view it seems a pity that Mr. Warre is an Oxford man and cannot forget Tom Tower. If he had been a Cambridge man, Ely would have inspired him and he might then have omitted his cupola. The chief beauty of Eton chapel is the beauty of its skyline, gloriously pinnacled, and I am sure that the brain that dreamt this tower could produce a pinnacled crest that would be beautiful and uplifting. The Gothic pinnacle symbolises the Gothic faith, when man was simple and believed. The tall upright lines of Gothic pier and buttress, spire and pinnacle, are all a means of expression of faith. The dome and its like belong to the material age of the Renaissance and the revival of philosophic sophistry. A memorial to the fallen in this war ought to express the faith that was in them and for which they fought and died.—F. R. I. B. A.

## VEGETABLE MARROWS.

[TO THE EDITOR OF "COUNTRY LIFE."]

SIR,—I have always been much interested in the cultivation of this vegetable, and in the course of the past seven years have collected certain facts which may possibly be of interest. On the whole the bush marrow is to be preferred to the trailer; being a compact, erect plant, it is more ornamental than the trailer, and is much more easily watered in dry weather. As to the comparative crops obtained, I have this summer kept a table of weights obtained from both varieties, and taking space of ground occupied, bush marrows give the heavier crop, but there is not much in it. In Essex in 1917 I grew 1,500 bush marrows and got a crop of 6 tons. This works out to about 9lb. per plant. These marrows were planted along the foot of the glaciis of a disused battery, and were in a double row. Being at the bottom of a slope they received the natural drainage, and did well; they got practically no manure at all. In a small garden, where the plants are put into well-manured ground and well watered in dry weather, much better proportional results are obtained. Vegetable marrows should, during dry weather, receive one gallon of water per plant every other day. Nursery gardeners have told me that bush marrows are not nearly so good to eat as trailers. I have carefully tested both varieties and I do not believe that, when cooked, they can be distinguished apart. Four or five pounds is as heavy as they should be allowed to grow to; beyond this size they begin to get coarse. Some books recommend that trailers should have the runners pinched; others not. After trying both plans I believe it is best to pinch the runners just beyond the first fruit formed; certainly this plan prevents a number of little marrows turning yellow and dropping off. If bush marrows are too crowded they push out a long stem in an endeavour to get room, and become semi-trailing in habit. Plenty of sun, shelter from cold winds, ample moisture, well cultivated and sufficiently manured soil are the conditions which suit vegetable marrows and ensure their doing really well. The uninstructed gardener often puts the plants on the top of a manure hill, in any odd corner, and does not give nearly enough

water in hot weather. If carefully cut and unbruised and stored in an airy place, vegetable marrows can be kept all the winter, and I have eaten them as late as the end of January. A sort of hammock of netting hung from the ceiling of the storeroom with lumps of soft paper between the fruit to prevent their touching one another is a good method of storage.—"FLEUR-DE-LYS."

## TROUBLE WITH A HOME ELECTRIC LIGHT PLANT.

[TO THE EDITOR OF "COUNTRY LIFE."]

SIR,—I should like to put a question to you, the answer to which may be of interest to other readers. This house is supplied with electric light by its own small plant, a 2 b.h.p. oil engine running a battery of 28 d.p. cells. Some of these cells we have renewed during our five years' tenancy, but a great many are very old, the plates are much buckled and the quantity of sediment at the bottom of the cells is considerable and alarmingly near the plates, in spite of smoothing it down with a ruler. I called in my friend and adviser, the foreman of the local electrical works, to look at them the other day, and he gave it as his opinion that we dare not lift out such buckled sections in order to remove the sediment as we should certainly break the plates. "They will last out this season," he said. Yes; but though these twelve are so old and buckled as compared to some of the other cells, the uniform state of the battery is very good. What I should like to know is, whether there is any means of taking out the sediment without removing the sections—anything one can insert between the plates to scoop it up with? Even to remove a little and then smooth it down would lengthen the life of those cells by a great deal. I feel sure they will go for longer than one more season if I can only remove the danger from below.—E. M. M.

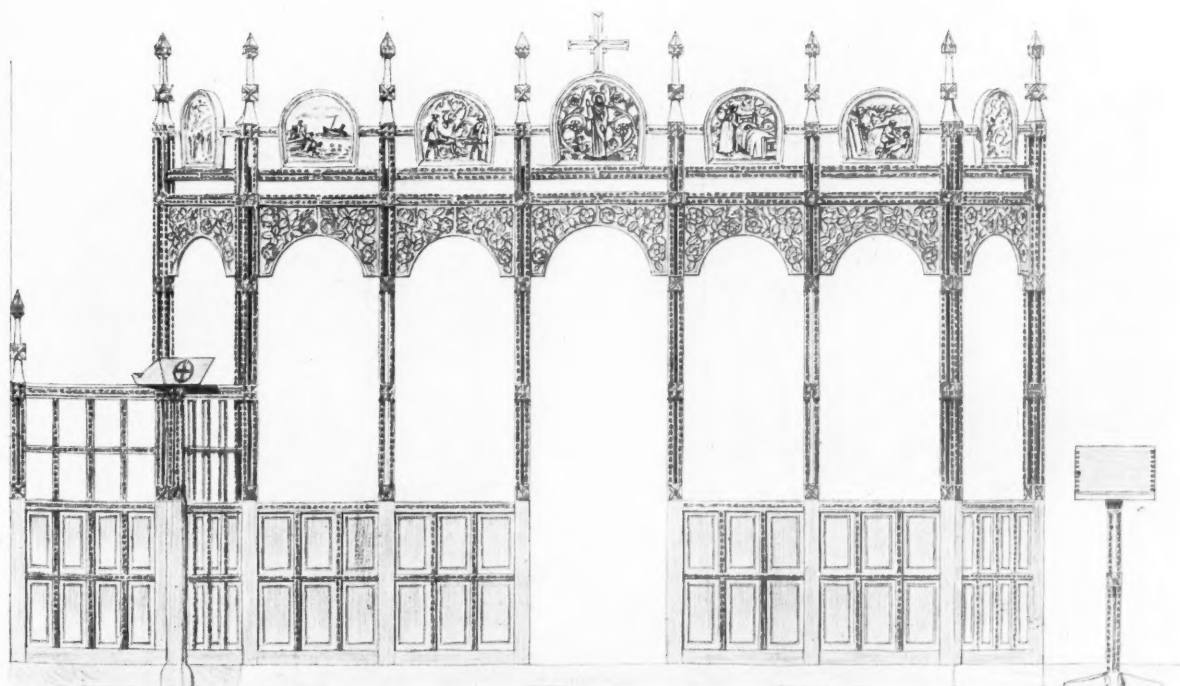
[The sediment can be removed by "syphoning." First of all charge the battery fully (so as to prevent those cells having sediment from having their paste oxidised, while exposed temporarily to the air, during removal of the electrolyte), then insert one end of an indiarubber tube in one cell at a time; see that the other end is well below the level of the bottom of the cell, and apply suction to the lower end by means of a hand-pump, syringe, or the mouth (care should be taken not to get the acid in the mouth). Directly, or before, the electrolyte begins to run out, remove the source of suction and keep the contents of the cell well stirred until empty so that the sediment does not remain at the bottom of the cell but passes out with the electrolyte. If the sediment does not all go, the operation may be repeated with pure water. Then immediately refill the cell with freshly prepared electrolyte of the correct density (about 1.210). Repeat the same process with each cell having sediment at the bottom. The old electrolyte may be run into any suitable vessel or on to the concrete floor, and washed down the drain.—Ed.]

## ERNEST GIMSON'S LAST WORK.

[TO THE EDITOR OF "COUNTRY LIFE."]

SIR,—A great craftsman has passed from among us. You have always shown consistent appreciation of Ernest Gimson's work and may wish to reproduce his own drawing for a screen which he was just completing. I need only explain that it forms part of a scheme for setting in order the chancel of the nineteenth century church at Crockham Hill, Kent, in memory of those who have fallen in the war, and that, as your readers can see for themselves, the screen is not my design, but his. The drawing belongs to the Memorial Committee, who have given leave for it to be reproduced.

FERRERS.



DRAWING FOR A SCREEN IN CROCKHAM HILL CHURCH.

## A CORMORANT IN HEREFORDSHIRE.

[TO THE EDITOR OF "COUNTRY LIFE."]

SIR,—About ten days ago a cormorant came here (Whitbourne) and established himself on the moat. He was unmolested, but left after three days. I have never heard of a cormorant being seen so far inland as this county (Herefordshire), and should be glad to know if they are often found so far from the sea.—RICHARD HARINGTON.

## THE FLOWERING OF A CENTURY PLANT.

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AN EXPIRING EFFORT.

buyers and sellers, but that particular corner of the market is now quite deserted, the farmers' wives and servants telling their old customers that they will not make butter to sell at present prices. This looks something like profiteering, to say the least. But since a gallon of milk makes more in the raw than in the more solid form, less all the trouble of churning, I do not see anything out of the way. In the town from which I write, twenty years ago there were but two regular milk walks, and now there are more than twenty milk sellers who, morning and evening, take milk round to the customers, and there is still a shortage in most households. It looks as if there was a shortage of milch cows, or that the cows give less milk, and so there is less both of milk and butter. Years ago at many farmhouses on churning days a person might get fresh out of the churn 2 lb. or 3 lb. of butter not made up into pats for a shilling, but those times are gone for ever.—THOS. RATCLIFFE.

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## BUTTER AND MILK.

[TO THE EDITOR.]

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[Note by the writer: I have used this for years without any mishap to the chickens. It could only be by a miracle that the solution reached the comb.—ED.]

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SIR,—In your interesting article on Compton End, near Winchester, which appears in your issue of August 23rd, I notice reference is made to "an old lead sign of the Gresham Insurance Company, with its charming stamp of the Royal Exchange" affixed to the gable over the front door of this delightful house. I think Mr. G. H. Kitchen is probably mistaken in ascribing this fire-mark to the Gresham Insurance Company, as its description tallies with one of the early signs issued by this corporation. If, as the policy number of 1345 seems to indicate, the mark is similar to that shown in the accompanying photograph, it is nearly 200 years old, as it was probably issued by this office in 1722. The building shown on the mark is the second Royal Exchange which was erected after the Great Fire, and which was again destroyed by fire in 1838. No doubt your readers are aware that in the early years of insurance these marks, bearing the number of the policy insuring the property on which they were affixed, were the indication that the services of a particular insurance company's firemen were needed on an outbreak of fire. This type of mark is associated with the times when the only organised fire brigades were those formed of watermen plying on the Thames by the fire insurance companies, and carries one back to the days of firemen clad—in the case of this office—in yellow coats lined with pink and armed with "Pole Axes, Girdles, Iron Crows, Pick Axes" and "preventors in the nature of Boat Hooks," the latter apparently for the purpose of pulling down burning buildings.—PERCY F. H. HODGE, Secretary of the Corporation of the Royal Exchange Assurance, London, E.C.



ROYAL EXCHANGE INSURANCE MARK.

(About 1722.)



THE CONTENTED PLOUGHMAN.





THOUGH achieved by few, it is everybody's ideal to build a house, a new house, with just those features and fittings and surroundings which are the heart's desire; a house, in fact, wherein may be realised the story-book's ending, that "they lived happily ever afterwards." Or, failing this complete creation, the next best ideal is to acquire an old house, preferably one in the country, with a weathered face and with "quaint" features such as we loved to copy in the school drawing-book, where the "picturesque" in houses competed so strongly with the jolly boat turned sideways on the seashore. And though countless efforts in both directions have been made, the lure of doing something oneself loses not an atom of intensity. "The house I want" is always to be a unique, individual effort. Unfortunately, when it comes to bare facts the architect finds, more often than not, that his client does not really know what he wants, and then follows much correspondence, discussion, and tribulation. No one, before he has tried it, can quite realise the difficulties



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When Mr. Edmund Davis acquired The Old Cottage it was in a very unprepossessing condition, for it had suffered a good deal at the hands of successive owners with no particular eye for architectural merit in houses, and its last use for the purposes of a corn-chandler's business did not tend to improve its appearance.

Originally it appears to have been known as The Lute House, not by reason of any musical associations, but because of the manner of its construction, "lute" building being, presumably, what would now be called cob, bearing in mind that *lutum* is the Latin for mud. Perhaps it may have been a timber frame building with "lute" filling. But, whatever its original form, there is little to suggest lute construction in the house as we see it to-day. It now proclaims itself as an example of the simple vernacular craft of building with timber, brick and tile, as seen in a hundred Surrey villages. When Mr. Marshall took in hand its reconstruction the property consisted of two cottages, and in order to make these into one house it was necessary to demolish certain walls and to build out some additions for further accommodation. The new and the old work are shown on the plan on page 409, the former being indicated by black walls and the latter by hatched walls. One of the cottages projected well in front of the other, and the bulk of the space in the projecting cottage was made into the dining-room of the new house. But the biggest alteration was in the hall. It was desired to have a hall extending the whole height of the house. To accomplish this the first floor was cut away and a balustraded oak gallery was formed across to the new staircase. There is a very roomy old chimney in this hall backing on to another in the sitting-room, and after some consideration it was found possible to contrive a cosy ingle here.

This matter of adapting a large old chimney to modern needs is often a troublesome one. We put in a modern fire-grate and it is very pleasing in appearance, but when the fire is lighted, down comes the smoke, and all sorts of expedients have to be tried to overcome the defect—frills, deep strips of glass, and other such things; and even then the down-draught is frequently not overcome, with the consequence that a delightful-looking room becomes almost unlivable in when the fire is started. The chief reason for this "regrettable occurrence" seems to be that these cavernous chimney flues used to have great roaring fires of wood burning in them, creating a tremendous up-draught, whereas the modern fire in such a setting is quite out of proportion to the chimney, and the heat from it goes up merely as a narrow column, leaving a cold space on either side, so that when the wind is unfavourable down-draught is sure to occur. The trouble, however, may be at the top. In The Old Cottage, for example, at a time much earlier than the present, an attempt to improve matters at that end seems to have been made, for the main stack has a 6ft. addition built on to it, presumably with the idea of securing a better draught. The fact that the original chimney finished at a level well above the house (as can be seen from the photographs on the preceding page) is sufficient to remind us that getting above the ridge level is not a sure solution in certain circumstances.

But to return to the interior. As the accompanying photograph shows,



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SITTING ROOM.

"COUNTRY LIFE."



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DINING-ROOM.

"COUNTRY LIFE."

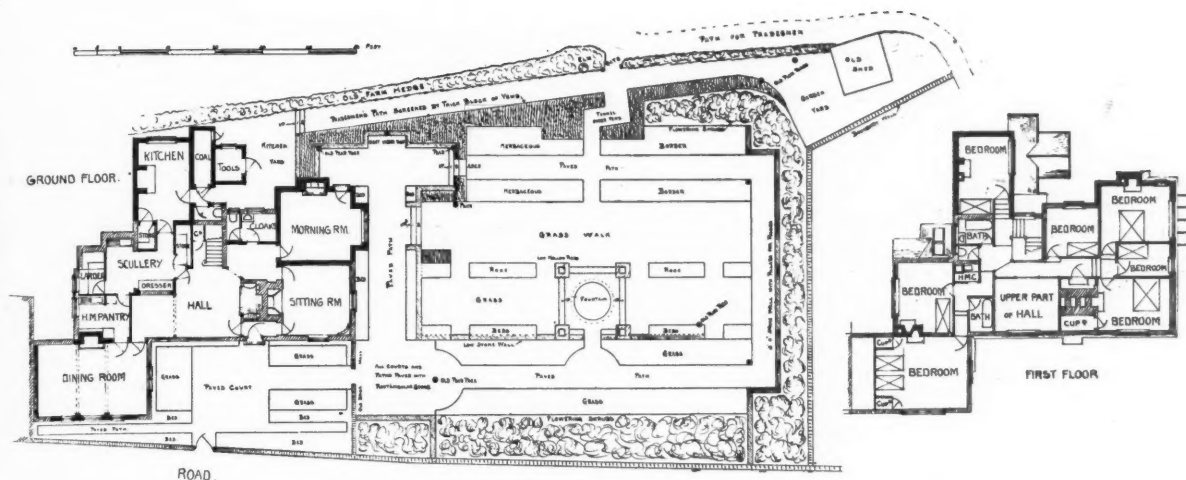


Copyright.

THE HALL.

"COUNTRY LIFE."





PLAN OF HOUSE AND GARDEN.

the sitting-room has a pretty corner recess and good panelling all around, and the sash window with thick bars declares itself as the work of the early eighteenth century. Actually, when The Old Cottage was made into its present form this sitting-room was used as a lumber-room by the hay and corn merchant tenant, and the shelves which now resume their original duty of holding pieces of china were then littered with oil bottles, food, and similar inappropriate things.

The garden of the house is very pleasing as an example of the effectiveness of a very simple scheme. It consists of a grass rectangle with a paved walk around, herbaceous borders to add splashes of colour, and a little sunk pool in a stone-paved setting on one side, with four shrubs as sentinels in the little corner piers. This garden was made out of paddock ground which had a farm hedge across it

and some fruit trees here and there. Some of these latter have been preserved, not so much for their fruitfulness as for the value which trees always have in a garden scheme.

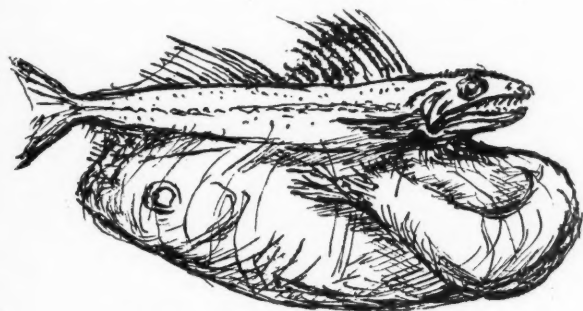
A reference to the plan will show how the pathway for tradespeople has been very cunningly screened by the yew hedge, kept closely clipped. At the front, the forecourt is paved entirely with flagstones, whose squared form is so very much more restful to the eye than crazy-paving. One has to note, also, at the entrance a perfectly plain white door with a simple hood. This is a thousand times more satisfactory than the pretentious entrances with hoods of elephantine proportions which are so commonly favoured. Here especially it strikes the right note, in the midst of quiet-toned brickwork and the mellowed tile which forms a hanging to the wall face and a covering to the roof.

R. RANDAL PHILLIPS.

## NATURE NOTES

# PIKE AND THE CHIASMUS

**A** CYNIC has said that there are three things only, in the long run, needed to keep a man contented—a good appetite, a sound digestion, and means to satisfy the one and keep the other busy. If this is the case, among the most enviable and contented of creatures should be a little deep-sea fish, *Chiasmodon niger*. It has a wide gape and an elastic stomach, which enable it to swallow, and presumably digest, fishes three or four times larger than itself. One can picture the surprised indignation with which a half-pound trout, preparing to swallow a "miller's thumb," finds the tables turning, and himself, the would-be swallower, the swallowed. The sketch—borrowed, by permission, from



SWALLOWER AND SWALLOWED.

the late Dr. Albert Günther's "Study of Fishes"—is from a specimen caught in the North Atlantic a mile and three-quarters below the surface. The fish swallowed is a large scapulus.

It may be that, because in the "ever during darkness" of the abyss food may not always readily be obtained, the inhabitants—as camels to store water—are gifted with special powers to make the most of it when they get it. Freshwater fishes—which, unless they elect to feed by night, need never hunt their prey in darkness deeper than the shadow of an overhanging bough or sheet of water lily leaves—have not the same

necessity, and the most voracious cannot hope to rival the chiasmodon and his fellows.

The pike, with its great underhung jaw, its vertical fins placed far back, doubling the propelling power of the tail, a stroke of which can shoot the long, straight body forward with the swiftness of an arrow, perhaps among freshwater fish runs it most closely. Poor, in comparison, as its performances may be, they are not to be despised.

The wild duck which rashly makes her nest in the rushes beside a pike pond, small though the fish may run, is not likely to be troubled long with the responsibility of a family. It is by no means an uncommon thing in the Broadland district to pick up a pike choked in the attempt to swallow another almost as big as itself. The writer has known more than one instance of the kind, and can speak from personal knowledge of two cases in which pheasants have been taken down, if not actually swallowed, by pike—one immediately under his own eyes.

The guns at a Norfolk shooting party were placed along the bank of a sheet of water about 150yds. wide, and the birds driven across from a hill on the opposite side. A cock pheasant, dropped by the next gun, fell into the water not 15yds. from the writer. The bird was not quite dead, and had floated for a minute with head raised, when there was a sudden swirl in the water, a splash of wing-flappings, and when the ripples died away there was no sign of the pheasant. It proved too large a mouthful for the pike which had struck at it, and four or five minutes later rose again some yards from the spot at which it had disappeared.

The other case of the kind occurred in Gloucestershire, and, but for the fact that the writer could, from recent personal experience, vouch for the possibility, might have endangered the character of an under-keeper for trustworthiness. There had been recently occasional difficulties in reconciling the numbers of birds supposed to have been shot with the numbers brought home, and when assured that a pheasant which had fallen and not been picked up had been taken by a pike, the noble host was at first inclined to be a little sceptical. This bird was not seen again. The lake, some 20 acres or more in extent, is full of large pike, many well over 20lb., and the pheasant, which was a hen, being of a more manageable size than an old cock, was probably comfortably disposed of by its captor.

T. D. P.

## WATER RAT CLIMBING TREE.

Though water rats are active little creatures, it is by no means usual to see them ascend trees in search of food. A few evenings ago I saw one of these animals climb a hazel which overhung a Devonshire brook. The rat climbed up the main stem and thence down a drooping branch, where he was not more than about 2ft. above the water. He sat there for a considerable time eating away at the hazel leaves. Eventually a trout rose with a splash close below, and the rat at once dropped off into the water. During several years of close observation I have never seen water rats feeding on anything save vegetable food; at the same time, it is curious what a small proportion of wild ducklings live to grow up. I have frequently seen stoats hunting along ditches late in the evening, while grey rats live for the most part in the open during the summer months. Perhaps stoats and grey rats between them are responsible for the infant mortality among waterfowl. The only crime that I have proved against water rats is that they raid vegetable gardens if these are within easy reach of vole-frequented watercourses.

FLEUR-DE-LYS

## ECHIDNAS AND PRŒCHIDNAS.

"The most whimsical of Nature's vagaries," wrote Cornwallis Harris long ago of some African beast: could he have lived to see an echidna in the flesh he might well have reversed his verdict. At the very foot of the mammalian ladder, primitive and almost reptilian, the echidna and its even quainter cousin, the prœchidna, have well repaid the attention of those of us who have been able to study them.

To be fully appreciated in all its oddity, the echidna should be seen alive, the animal then bearing little resemblance to the shapeless object which generally represents it in museums. The head of this extraordinary creature is small, rounded and bird-like, and the resemblance is heightened by the prolongation of the face into a veritable beak, only one degree less strange than that of the duck-billed platypus. The nostrils, again, are small and curiously situated at the end of the snout: this being another ornithic character, since it also obtains in the apteryx. The eyes are small, and during life are pale blue; the tongue



A PRŒCHIDNA IN THE ZOO.

is long and flexible; there is no external ear. The whole of the upper surface, including the tail, is covered with short quills, yellowish, with black tips, like those of porcupines; below, the animal is clad in thick, coarse fur. The fore-legs are bowed, the claws are powerful, and used in digging.

Echidnas have been frequently brought alive to England, being fed on a mixture of shredded beef, eggs and milk; the writer saw one in Amsterdam which lived for at least four years on this diet. This fine beast used to sleep during the forenoon, rolled up in a spiky ball like a huge burr; at half-past five he was quite active, waddling about his roomy cage with a curious, top-heavy gait, probably due to his bow legs. Like the great anteater, the echidna during life recalls several other animals: thus, in its gait it suggests a tiny bear, it shivers and puffs like an armadillo, and when it raises itself high on its legs and arches its back it absurdly resembles a spiny elephant! In endeavouring to prise open a crevice the animal uses one paw only, instead of two like an armadillo: the wrist is surprisingly flexible and delicate in its movements. The tongue is red, and can be protruded for at least 3ins. from the mouth.

If the echidna is quaint, the prœchidna is weird in the extreme: it is, indeed, an echidna intensified in every respect. Thus, the beak of the prœchidna is of almost snipe-like length and attenuation; this, with the grey skin and longer legs, intensifies the burlesque elephant effect already noticed. The tail of the echidna is a burr of spines; that of the prœchidna is stranger still, being not only spiny but of a triangular shape, passing without any constriction into the body, and so stout that the animal can use it as a prop, as shown in the illustration. The hind limbs turn outwards, so that the body is, as it were, slung between them; they assume curious attitudes, as shown in the sketch appended, seldom if ever exhibited by more normal mammals. Again, this surprising beast has a fold of skin like the collar of a tortoise, into which the head can be partly retracted. The prœchidna is, in fact, quite reptilian in many

of its characters, and the naturalist surveying it will readily subscribe to the theory of the reptilian ancestry of mammals.

The prœchidna was first known in 1876: the first seen alive in Europe were two specimens received at the Amsterdam Zoological Gardens; on November 27th, 1912, two arrived at the Zoo in Regent's Park, having been taken with seven others in the Charles Louis Mountains, New Guinea.

GRAHAM RENSHAW.

## WALKING AND THINKING

THERE is a remarkable diversity in the effects of walking on the minds of different men. Not long ago Mr. Max Beerbohm openly confessed his hatred of the exercise, averring that when his body was so misguided as to walk, his brain remained at home. The "Sunday Tramps," I believe, found that walking stimulated intellectual conversation, even at five miles an hour over the Surrey hills; Robert Louis Stevenson found it frequently conducive to song. Rousseau, in his confessions, remarks that he never thought so brilliantly as during long voyages on foot. "Never have I thought so much," he wrote, "existed so much, lived so much, been so much myself, if I may use the phrase, as on the journeys which I have made alone and on foot." Most men lie between the extremes of Mr. Beerbohm and Rousseau, and I fancy that they incline more to the former. It must, of course, be understood that by walking I mean serious walking, walking as an end in itself, what Oxford men were wont to call "ekker," pure pedestrianism, though not necessarily for very long distances. I should not include under this head, for instance, the walk of the golfer, still less the amble of the croquet player nor stately progress between archery targets, nor church parade in Hyde Park, nor a toddle on the King's Parade at Brighton. True walking is done by bright and active persons who, at the suggestion "let us go for a walk," straightway put on thick boots and seize a stout stick with alacrity and do not return till teatime to drain the teapot and eat all the bread and jam. One feature of this walking which I have noticed is that it must be a steady and uninterrupted progress from place to place; dawdling and frequent stoppages are abhorred. That is why most walkers for the sake of walking are dwellers in towns, for, being accustomed only to dawdle in front of shop windows, the country gives them nothing to dawdle for. Your artist makes a bad companion to the professional walker, for he is always stopping to look at views, admire the colour on old tiled roofs, or ecstasise over the reflections in water. The professional walker takes views, old roofs, water, sky, graceful silhouettes of trees, contours of lovely downs, gardens, wild flowers, butterflies, birds on the wing, all on the hop, as it were. They are all part of his *agrément*, but he likes it in a medley, as a kind of scented atmosphere, not as things into which one is irresistibly led to poke one's nose. If he did, how, he asks, would he get there and back before tea, or keep up that four and half miles an hour which gives him a healthy perspiration and such an appetite for bread and jam? If perspiration, fresh air and appetite are what he is after he is right, lingering is fatal. I knew a walker once, not a regular one, but one who stuck to the business well enough when he made up his mind to it. One day, quite by accident, he was tempted, constrained, in fact, by an importunate small daughter, to learn something of birds and wild flowers. He never walked again, nor did he dare issue forth with a professed walker, for he knew that he would never get there and back before tea.

However, I have digressed from the main question, which is whether a professed walker's mind is stimulated or drugged by walking. Mostly drugged, I fancy. There are few who, like Rousseau, can think better in motion than at rest. Most of us I think, know what it is to start out with the idea that we will think out a policy, decide a difficult question, compose an article or sketch a play as our feet pursue one another over the downs, and to return having thought, like the White Knight's pencil guided by Alice, of all manner of things, but not of that. My own poor mind is seized with vanities in a moment. "This article will be very good," it says to itself; "it will go more or less like this and like that, then I shall think of some more, and perhaps of a book, and I shall invest the vast proceeds in rubber. Yes, moderate wealth, then we can play country cricket. A century, yes, nice fast wicket, steady for an over or two, then two drives to the off, eight, a full pitch to leg, four and a cut for two; bag the bowling, two more drives, one for six, a snick to leg and a balloon well out of harm's way, and so on. Then bowling, extraordinary feat, five wickets in one over, one fast yorker, two turning a foot from the off, one pure funk, and the last caught at the wicket. And if that silly fellow Bulger keeps himself on the whole time I'll tell him what I think of him. Fight him, certainly. Straight left on the nose, blood, duck and right counter on the jaw, leave him sprawling, ladies smile at me." By this time my fists are clenched and I am walking six miles an hour. My absurdity flashes on me, whereupon to cover my confusion I hum Schubert's Unfinished Symphony. So it goes on, a lamentable exhibition. The memory of it makes me hum again. Quick, a chair, a table and a lamp-lit room! Let me prove to myself that my mind works sometimes.

ORLO WILLIAMS.